**Lifestyle / C1**
Swish! Wham! Zap! Kaboom! and their authors

**Metro / A23**
Belmonte declares war on QC casinos

**News / A2**
GSIS chief accuses accuser of graft

**World / A11**
Kerry cuts Bush lead by 3 points, says survey

**Sports / A25**
DOJ decision on Fil-Am basketball players due in 10 days

**Entertainment / A2-7**
'The Notebook' tearjerker, Pinoy style

## Palace: Save economy first, dance Cha-cha later

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

SAVING the economy will have to come first. Then the country can go ahead with plans to amend the Constitution so that a new system of government can be in place by 2010.

This was the timetable for the planned Charter change, or Cha-cha, outlined by Press

PALACE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## 'Bulldog' ready to bark at cell phone thieves

**By Erwin Oliva**
*INQ7.net*

YOU could say it's a cell phone watchdog.

A Filipino start-up firm has developed a software program in-

BULLDOG/ A21

DI NANGA-
NGAGAT ANG
DOG NA YAN!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, September 29, 2004 ★★ 80 pages / 9 sections / vol. 19 / no. 294 P18
website: www.inq7.net

# Oil hits $50.47 per barrel

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

LIKE FATHER, like daughter. President Arroyo, with Vice President Noli de Castro behind her, proudly points to her father Diosdado Macapagal in one of the pictures on exhibit at the capsule-laying ceremony for the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport Terminal Expansion Project in Clark, Pampanga.

## *Analysts see further rise in int'l crude prices*

CRUDE oil topped $50 per barrel during Asian trading yesterday, pushing past the psychological milestone for the first time then surging further to new record levels as uncertainties over Nigerian output heightened worries of a severe supply disruption.

Rebels continue to battle for control over the vast southern oil fields in Nigeria, the world's seventh largest exporter.

They have warned oil companies to shut production in the Niger delta before they declare an all-out-war on Oct. 1. The delta pumps all of Nigeria's 2.3 million barrels per day (bpd).

Traders bid oil to new highs in after-hours trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange in a reaction to the slow recovery of US oil production that was damaged by Hurricane Ivan and unrest in key producers.

After reaching $50, prices inched higher. By mid-afternoon in Asia, light sweet crude oil for delivery in November traded at $50.47 per barrel, up 83 cents from the close of Monday's regular session in New York.

The price of oil is up roughly 75 percent from a year ago and some analysts predict the latest surge—which is already hurting airlines and other big consumers—could lead to a global

OIL/ A21

## Peso fall plunges RP deeper into debt trap

**By Carlito Pablo**

THE DEPRECIATION of the peso will drive the country into deeper indebtedness because about half of the public sector debt is foreign-currency denominated.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee, raised this point after the peso slid back to its historic low of P56.45 to the dollar on Monday.

The public sector debt, which includes the debts of government-owned and -controlled corporations and local government units, stood at P5.9 trillion as of Sept. 14, according to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

"Next year's gross debt service level (interest and principal) was premised on a low end of P54 (to the dollar) to a high end of P56 to $1, an assumption that is universally believed to be understated," Andaya said.

The peso strengthened slightly against the dollar yesterday, closing at 56.38.

But Citigroup, the leading American financial services firm, expects the peso to further weaken to P57.50 in March and to P57.80 in September next year because of the ballooning trade deficit and "moderated outlook" for electronics, the country's dominant export.

President Macapagal-Arroyo shrugged off the peso's fall. "Our economic fundamentals are steady and strong and the peso's dip is a result of transient market vagaries and poses no threat to the economy," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

The President ruled out the imposition of foreign exchange controls to rein in the peso's steep slide.

"We will not impose control mechanisms on the peso-dollar exchange rate because it will only drive away investors. Let the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) do

PESO FALL/ A20

PDI PHOTO

LICUANAN: First work experience in government.

## New Subic head made 'billionaires of Ayalas'

**By Tonette Orejas, Allan Macatuno and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—To think that once upon a time, he had indicated to a job applicant who had had a stint as a state employee that he did not consider working in the government any kind of work experience.

Francisco Licuanan III, former president of Ayala Land Inc., is the new chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, replacing Felicito "Tong" Payumo. He will assume the post on Nov. 1, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

"I want to introduce the incoming chairman of the SBMA," Ms Arroyo told reporters during a visit to this former US air base. She called Licuanan to join her and he stood to her left. "He will be in charge of developing Clark and Subic into the best logistics, transport and warehouse hub in Southeast Asia," she said.

NEW SUBIC/ A22

### HIT, HATE LISTS

## Comrades pin Tabara's killing on Joma's group

**By Fe B. Zamora and Christian V. Esguerra**

OUTPOURINGS of grief for Arturo Tabara mingled with denunciations of a man thousands of miles away from where the assassinated leftist leader lay in a coffin.

Friends and comrades gathered at the wake at Funeraria Paz bashed exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison as a "mafioso" and a "madman," blaming his group for Tabara's death.

If the CPP's hit list has gotten shorter, the list of former comrades who hate Sison's guts has grown longer, Tabara's friends said.

No one has claimed responsibility for Tabara's assassination in a parking lot at SM Fairview in Quezon City on Sunday night but police are blaming the CPP's New People's Army for the killing. CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has said an NPA unit may have been responsible.

A senior police officer told the INQUIRER that evidence at hand showed Tabara was killed by the same group of highly trained assassins—including a woman—who gunned down former NPA chief Romulo "Ka Rolly" Kintanar last year.

Both killings were the handiwork of the "special operations group" of the CPP military staff, headed by Leo Velasco, according to the officer who requested anonymity.

"Joma wants to silence dissenters ... he

COMRADES/ A22

JOAN BONDOC

**HIGHWAY ROBBERY ...**

...Or so the police claim was the business of the six dead men whom they shot Monday night along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo, Rizal. They were allegedly members of a criminal band called the Jaso-Jaso Group. *(Story in Metro, Page A23.)*

## Textbook whistle-blower to DECS: Say sorry first

**By Dona Pazzibugan**

SAY sorry, and then we'll talk.

Antonio Calipjo Go, a private school executive, yesterday said he would sit down with education officials over errors that he had found in a high school history textbook only if they apologized for "maligning" him.

The Department of Education announced Monday, after a full week of resistance, that it was prepared to correct the reported errors. Prior to the announcement, Education Secretary Florencio Abad and Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz had issued media statements that Go probably just wanted money from the book's publisher.

"My reputation is all I have," said Go, academic supervisor at Marian School in Novaliches, who has been on a personal crusade against erroneous textbooks for the last seven years.

Go earlier claimed to have found 431 mistakes in the 316-page "*Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap* (Asia: Then, Now, and in the Future)." The public school version is published by SD Publications, sister company of Vibal Publishing.

A Vibal official contacted by the INQUIRER refused to confirm Luz's allegation that Go

TEXTBOOK/ A22

## Save baby umbilical cord blood

**By Jerome Aning**

SAVING the blood from your baby's umbilical cord assures him of cell replacements, possibly even body parts, that he may need in the future.

Two Singaporean doctors are currently in the country speaking to obstetricians and expectant mothers about saving umbilical cord blood, which medical studies have found to be a rich source of stem cells fundamental to several developing technologies, particularly gene therapy and cellular repair.

Speaking to reporters during the weekly Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel yesterday, Dr. Teo Cheng Peng and Dr. Leong See Odd said cord blood banking was a less expensive and safer method of obtaining stem cells for future use. The most common method, collecting from bone marrow, involves a surgical procedure.

Stem cells are those in the early

SAVE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/29/04

| | |
|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Garcia fights back, sues critic

By Armand N. Nocum and Norman Bordadora

**THE BELEAGUERED president of the Government Service Insurance System, Winston Garcia, yesterday filed a graft complaint with the Ombudsman's Office against Rep. Rolex Suplico for allegedly "coercing" a multinational company to buy land belonging to his wife's family for P175 million.**

The complaint was the start of what Garcia—who has been slapped with graft charges in the Ombudsman's office and is threatened with a congressional investigation into his alleged misuse and mismanagement of GSIS funds—described as a "personal crusade" to expose the "mud and dirt" of his attackers in Congress.

Garcia accused Suplico (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Iloilo) of allegedly forcing Kimberly-Clark Phil. Inc. (KCPI), through threats of congressional investigation, to buy the land at a "staggering cost of P175 million."

"What Rep. Suplico committed was pure and simple coercion against one of the top taxpayers and investors in our country. He committed a crime and, in the process, prostituted his office," Garcia said in his complaint.

Garcia is also seeking an investigation by the House committee on ethics into why Suplico and Representatives Marcelino Libanan (NPC, Eastern Samar), Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte) and Benasing Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur) were seeking the investigation of the alleged funds abuse at the GSIS.

He earlier accused Veloso of attempting to influence the award of the GSIS' reinsurance contracts.

The four representatives that Garcia is targeting in his crusade yesterday described Garcia's move as "an act of desperation to deflect attention from his gross mismanagement of GSIS finances."

They challenged Garcia to file the case against them as soon as possible "instead of resorting to media insinuations" so they can charge him with perjury and libel.

Macarambon said that instead of imputing bad motives to the House members who filed the resolution to have him investigated, Garcia should answer directly the charges against him.

Garcia said the charges were all part of a "vicious plot" against him and vowed to expose the "evil motives" of the people behind it.

He said he filed the case against Suplico "to expose his blatant use of public office for his personal gain and for that of his family."

According to the complaint, the family of Suplico's wife, Maria Theresa Cancio, owned the Goodwill Trading Co. which in turn owned the land in San Pedro, Laguna, on which the KCPI plant was located.

Although the United States-based company had a 25-year lease on the land, some members of the Cancio clan, "including the Suplico [couple,]" wanted to have the lease rescinded and instead compel KCPI to purchase the property," Garcia said.

When KCPI resisted, charges were filed against its top officials, who were accused of illegally extracting ground water, and House Resolution No. 1439 was filed to probe violations of the Provincial Utilities Act, "courtesy of Rep. Suplico," he said.

Garcia said KCPI was constrained to purchase the land, after which nothing more was heard of HR 1439.

"The cases against the KCPI and its officials were mysteriously dropped. Suddenly, Rep. Suplico seemed content and happy," he said.

The case, filed in 2000, was apparently settled the following year.

Garcia said he filed the case as a citizen to "help rid Congress of ill-motivated members" and intends to file other charges against three or more congressmen.

"This has to stop. The powers of Congress must never be used to destroy private persons and institutions," he said.

Suplico yesterday dismissed Garcia's counter-charges, saying the GSIS head was trying to silence him and divert attention from the GSIS controversy.

He said the case cited stemmed from a controversy arising out of a contract of lease between his father-in-law, who is already dead, and KCPI, and that the case had been settled amicably.

Suplico refused to answer Garcia's allegations in detail as he had yet to see the complaint. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

**HOSED DOWN.**
Members of Courage, the federation of government workers' unions, try to hold their ground against firemen's water cannon during yesterday's dispersal of a protest rally at the GSIS. They were demanding the dismissal of GSIS chief Winston Garcia.

JESS YUSON

# Solon wants GSIS membership optional

AT LEAST three laws affecting the salaries and insurance benefits of government employees will likely come out of the controversy roiling the Government Service Insurance System and its president and general manager, Winston Garcia.

While the House of Representatives has yet to start the formal inquiry into the alleged misuse of GSIS funds, House Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) said he has already asked his staff to draft three proposed laws.

These include: fixing the salaries of executives of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) no higher than the P57,000 monthly salary of the President; removing the sovereign guarantee for loans incurred by the GOCCs, and making membership to the GSIS as well as the Social Security System optional.

"It's time to make membership in the GSIS optional. The government employee must not be compelled to join a social security system like the GSIS against his will," Suplico said, citing the case of employees of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police who have opted to withdraw their membership from the GSIS.

Suplico said that if a government worker does not trust the management of the GSIS, he must be given an option to withdraw his membership.

"We cannot compel him to stay to donate his blood to the blood bank if he sees that the one in charge of the blood bank is Dracula," he said.

Suplico said there were already 14 co-sponsors of House Resolution 726 to investigate Garcia, which he principally authored, while Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and Rep. Generoso Tulagan (NPC, Pangasinan) have filed separate resolutions calling for a probe.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said the bribery claim of Garcia against Suplico and several congressmen who signed the resolution would not stop Congress from pursuing the investigation.

"He (Garcia) better be sure he comes with a basket of proof," Nograles said.

"Mr. Garcia should prove his allegations. He cannot just go around town maligning members of Congress just to be able to escape allegations of mismanagement and abuse of discretion at the GSIS," he said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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# FVR won't return for Senate probe

By Michael Lim Ubac

ALTHOUGH not yet off the hook, former President Fidel Ramos will not be summoned again by the Senate joint committee tasked to investigate the so-called Smokey Mountain scam.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, told the INQUIRER yesterday that the inquiry would push through without the former president.

The private developer in the Smokey Mountain project, meanwhile, defended the contract, saying R-II Builders put in a total of P1.2 billion into the project when the area was just a garbage dump and the surrounding land was still under water.

Arroyo said that there was no need to summon the former President to attend the next hearing, which is yet to be scheduled, to prevent a clash with the high court should Ramos invoke constitutional grounds.

Arroyo believed that former presidents should not face congressional inquiries, a position supported by the University of the Philippines Law Center. He said Ramos' appearance on Thursday was voluntary.

The secondary body in the joint committee hearing, the committee on government corporations and public enterprises chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon, is also not keen on asking Ramos to return to the inquiry.

Gordon had said that Ramos had sufficiently answered all the questions raised by senators in the hearing last Thursday.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who delivered a privilege speech titled "Anak ng Amari," had accused Ramos, her arch-rival, of violating the Constitution when he authorized the reclamation of additional lands in Manila Bay fronting Radial Road 10 in Tondo, Manila, on top of the original 44 hectares authorized by law.

Meanwhile, RII Builders Inc., the private developer of the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP), had claimed that it had infused a total of P1.2 billion into the project to finance this pro-poor initiative in 1995.

Former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway-Vinzons Chato, the spokesperson for R-II Builders, said that the capital infusion made by the company enabled the government to push through with the project, at a time when Smokey Mountain was nothing but a pile of garbage and the adjacent land to be reclaimed was still under water.

Chato said that contrary to Santiago's claim that only R-II Builders benefited from the SMDRP, the government already received its fair share in the project, with the completion and turnover of 34 temporary housing buildings and 21 permanent residential facilities at the former Smokey Mountain site now valued at about P2.5 billion.

"These properties were completed ahead of schedule and turned over to the intended beneficiaries. This is an undisputed fact," Chato noted.

"Therefore, as far as the NHA or the government is concerned, the NHA had already received its fair share under the Joint Venture Agreement while the developer—R-II Builders-has not yet recovered its investment," she added.

Chato said R-II Builders created "real and tangible values" for Smokey Mountain and the still undeveloped land adjacent to it "to realize the goal of the Aquino and Ramos administrations of transforming what was once a symbol of poverty and national shame into a model of urban development."

# 4 to vie for vacant SC slot

THE JUDICIAL and Bar Council has submitted to Malacañang the short list of nominees vying to fill up the lone vacancy at Supreme Court, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said that the JBC submitted a list of four names from which President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to choose the replacement of retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Vitug.

"The minimum is three but four names were forwarded to Malacañang," said Gonzalez, a JBC member.

The council, chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., trimmed down to four the number of candidates vying for Vitug's seat in the high court after they voted on Sept. 15 on who should be nominated to the President.

JBC sources said the nominees were Court of Appeals (CA) Presiding Justice Cancio Garcia and Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr., who each got seven votes; Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, six votes; and Court of Appeals Justice Portia Alino-Hormachuelos, four votes.

Ms Arroyo has 90 days to appoint Vitug's replacement after he retired on July 14.

The JBC members who attended the Sept. 15 meeting were Davide, Gonzalez, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, Dean Amado Dimayuga, retired Supreme Court justice Regino Hermosisima, and lawyer Conrado Castro of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

# Thaw seen in Macapagal sisters' feud

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The rift between half-sisters President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Pampanga Vice Gov. Cielo Macapagal-Salgado appears to have been mended.

Yesterday, for the 94th birth anniversary of their father Diosdado Macapagal, Ms Arroyo and Salgado got together for the first time in years for a capsule-laying rite honoring the late President.

The President made sure her sister was beside her.

Arriving at 10:10 a.m. at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, Ms Arroyo immediately looked for Salgado. "Where's my sister? I want her to be there," she said.

When the President laid the capsule for the P2-billion terminal of the DMIA here, Salgado stood beside her. Behind them was Diosdado Martin, the only son of Salgado.

The half-sisters—the President by Dr. Evangelina Macaraeg and Salgado by Purita de la Rosa—exchanged greetings and later embraced.

President Macapagal had remarried when his first wife Purita died of tuberculosis. Salgado was then barely in her teens.

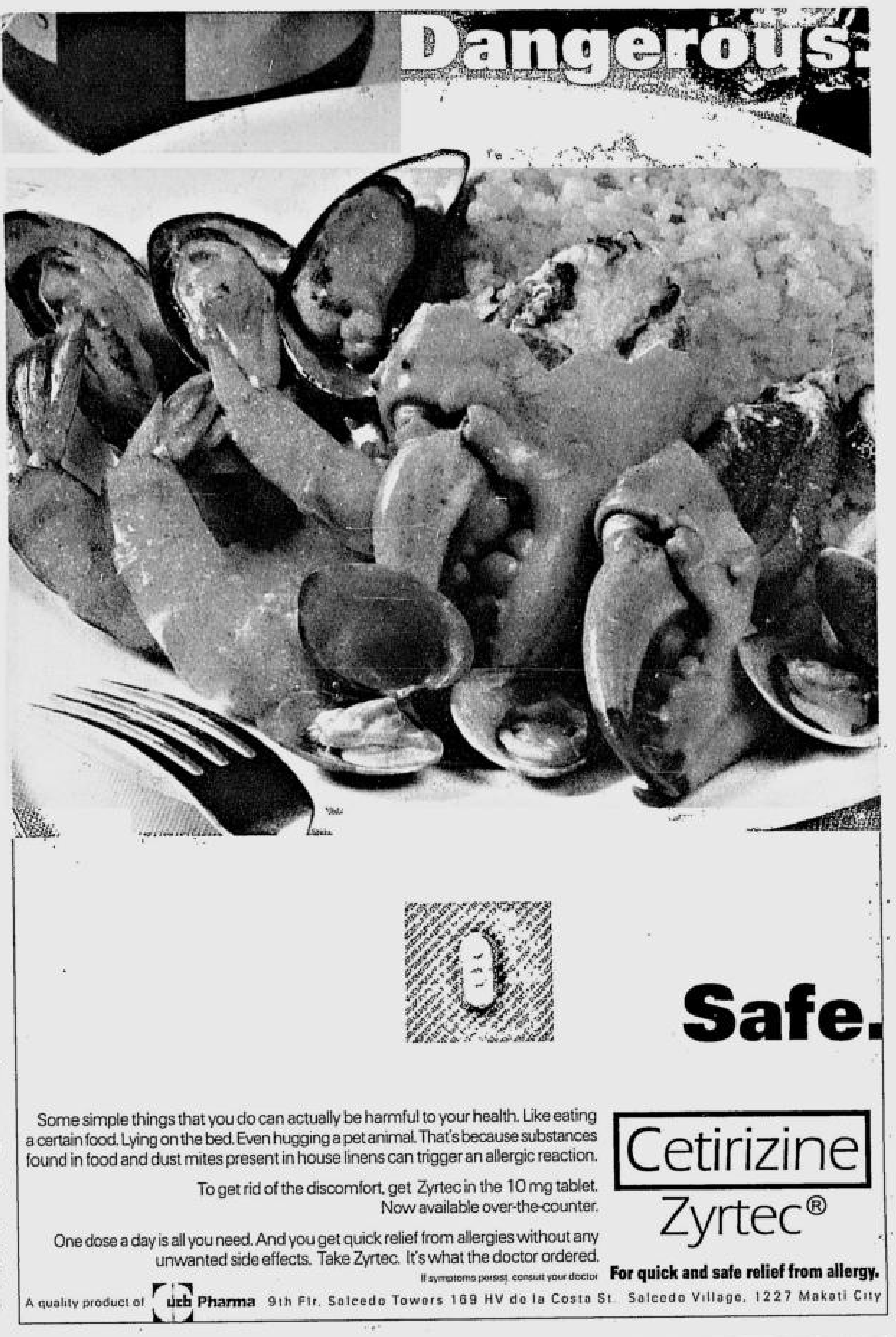
This was the first time Salgado joined Ms Macapagal in a public event. On two occasions in the past—both held in honor of their father—Salgado had sent her son Diosdado Martin.

The personal rift between the two started when Salgado and Ms Arroyo were children.

Salgado felt that her stepmother was "too hard" on her, compared to Ms Arroyo, the eldest in the second family, who was pampered.

In a book she wrote in 2000, Salgado sought the forgiveness of "Mommy," which was what she called her stepmother. Among her life reflections in the book were the disciplinarian ways of the former First Lady.

When it came to politics, the sisters took opposing camps. Ms Arroyo was with the administration while Salgado joined the camp of former President Joseph Estrada. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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# Solon on why they can't get things done: We talk too much

By Carlito Pablo

CONGRESS devotes too much time listening to speeches and gives too little time to legislation.

A senior lawmaker yesterday made this observation as he urged the House leadership to strictly implement rules on privilege speeches.

Rep. Constantino Jaraula (Lakas, Cagayan de Oro City) said he had written Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to suggest the strict observance of the "Privilege Hour on Mondays as provided in the House rules and not to extend the same the following day."

Jaraula explained that the House had a privilege hour every Monday wherein any congressman could have the floor and deliver a speech on any subject.

The privilege hour covers only one hour and, depending on the length of the speech and interpellation, any given number of lawmakers are accommodated during this period.

## Privilege

However, Jaraula noted that the entire Monday session, which starts at 4 p.m., was now devoted to privilege speeches.

"We spend the whole Monday afternoon listening to speeches because the privilege hour gets extended," he said.

Jaraula, however, conceded that there was a rule allowing a congressman to rise on a question of personal and collective privilege at any given day.

"When one rises on a question of personal and collective privilege, this involves the honor and integrity of the person or the entire institution," he said.

Still, such speeches, including interpellations, have a time limit of only 10 minutes.

## 'Wasting time'

Citing an example, Jaraula said the House could have approved on the floor the proposed tax amnesty bill on its last week of session before going on recess on Sept. 23.

"But we didn't. We're wasting a lot of time," he said.

In his letter to De Venecia, Jaraula also recommended the holding of regular sessions on Thursdays.

Traditionally, Thursdays are devoted to local bills but even this is not being followed.

Mondays are used up by privilege speeches, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are given to regular legislation, with no floor deliberations on Thursdays.

Jaraula said that holding regular sessions on Thursdays would facilitate the passage of the proposed national budget for 2005.

The House will resume session on Oct. 25.

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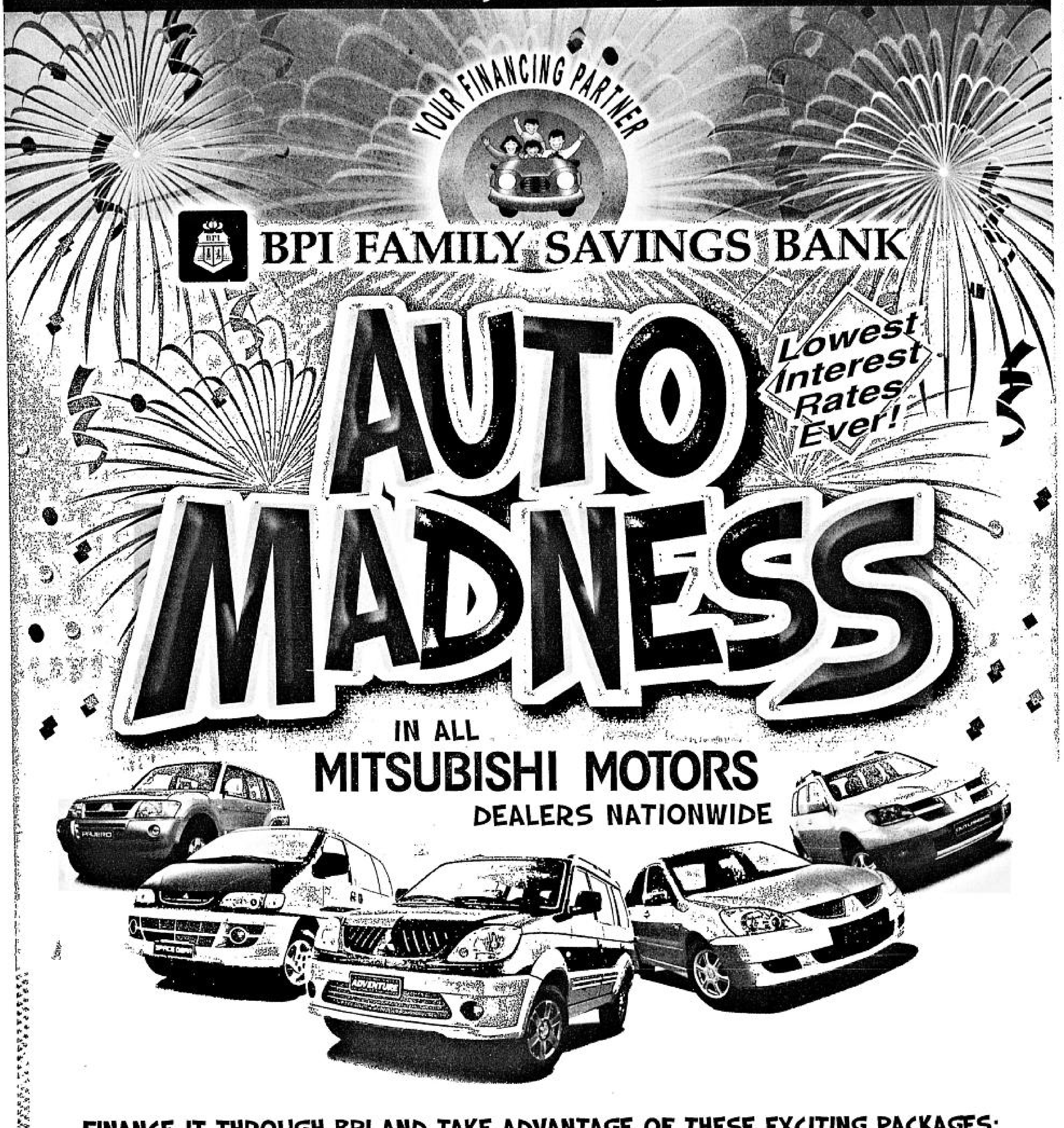

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| 2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT | 758,000 | 68,700 | 31,767 | 22,632 | 18,149 | 15,917 | 14,437 |
| 2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT | 838,000 | 85,700 | 35,120 | 25,020 | 20,065 | 17,597 | 15,961 |
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| 2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T* | 740,000 | 58,000 | 31,013 | 22,094 | 17,718 | 15,539 | 14,094 |
| 2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas M/T | 795,000 | 79,250 | 33,318 | 23,737 | 19,035 | 16,694 | 15,142 |
| 2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T | 805,000 | 80,750 | 33,737 | 24,035 | 19,275 | 16,904 | 15,332 |
| 2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T | 848,000 | 107,200 | 35,539 | 25,319 | 20,304 | 17,807 | 16,151 |
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| 2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas A/T | 980,000 | 127,000 | 41,071 | 29,260 | 23,465 | 20,579 | 18,665 |
| 2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas A/T | 1,180,000 | 87,000 | 48,511 | 34,561 | 27,715 | 24,307 | 22,254 |
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| Model | SRP | DP | 24 | 36 | 48 | 60 | 72 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 Lancer 1.6 GL M/T | 658,000 | 319,000 | 15,294 | 10,896 | 8,738 | 7,663 | 7,155 |
| 2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T | 698,000 | 319,000 | 16,224 | 11,559 | 9,269 | 8,129 | 7,590 |
| 2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT | 758,000 | 341,000 | 17,619 | 12,552 | 10,066 | 8,828 | 8,243 |
| 2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT | 838,000 | 389,000 | 19,478 | 13,877 | 11,128 | 9,760 | 9,113 |
| 2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel M/T** | 675,000 | 337,500 | 15,701 | 11,186 | 8,970 | 7,867 | 7,123 |
| 2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas M/T** | 700,000 | 350,000 | 16,317 | 11,625 | 9,323 | 8,176 | 7,403 |
| 2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T* | 740,000 | 337,000 | 17,200 | 12,254 | 9,827 | 8,618 | 8,047 |
| 2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas M/T | 795,000 | 377,500 | 18,479 | 13,165 | 10,557 | 9,259 | 8,645 |
| 2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T | 805,000 | 382,500 | 18,711 | 13,330 | 10,690 | 9,375 | 8,754 |
| 2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T** | 848,000 | 424,000 | 19,966 | 14,224 | 11,407 | 10,004 | 9,061 |
| 2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T | 935,000 | 447,500 | 21,733 | 15,483 | 12,416 | 10,889 | 10,167 |
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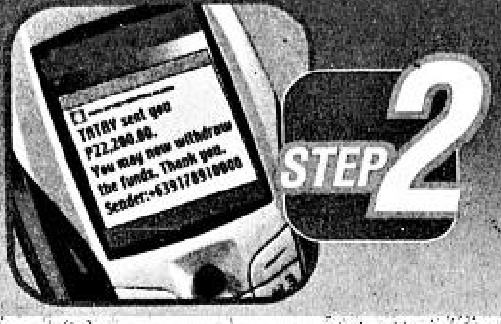

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# Troops launch big assault vs Abu Sayyaf leader

AMERICAN-BACKED forces have launched a major assault to capture or kill an Abu Sayyaf leader wanted by Washington, sparking clashes that killed a Philippine marine and left an undetermined number of rebels dead, officials said yesterday.

The assaults, which began Friday in the mountain jungles of Patikul, Jolo, were aimed at neutralizing Radulan Sahiron and a number of Abu Sayyaf commanders who reportedly had planned to meet there last week, apparently to plot another terror strike, military sources said.

Army Brig. Gen: Agustin Dimaala, who was helping oversee the operations, confirmed that assaults were under way against Sahiron's group.

One marine was killed and six others were injured—two while defusing a homemade bomb, officials said.

There was no indication if Sahiron, who is believed to have about 40 armed followers, had been killed in running gun battles, officials said.

"We're optimistic," Dimaala said in a telephone interview. "The operations are continuing and the troops are still on the mountain."

US forces provided training and equipment to Filipino troops involved in the assaults, but were not involved in actual combat, Dimaala said, refusing to give details.

Night-vision goggles provided by the Americans allowed Filipino troops to locate and engage a group of rebels, who had split into smaller groups late Monday, another official said.

Sahiron, a one-armed, horse-riding Abu Sayyaf commander based in Patikul, is on a US defense department list of wanted terrorists.

He is linked to a number of kidnappings, including the April 2000 abduction of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers from neighboring Malaysia. The hostages were freed in batches after the payment of ransom.

Abraham Jumdaini, spiritual leader of the Abu Sayyaf, is now in government hands, the military said yesterday.

Col. Gominta Pirino, operations officer of the AFP Southern Command, said Jundaini was arrested on Sept. 21 but the military delayed making the announcement pending confirmation of his actual role in the bandit group.

He was listed in the government's order of battle and carried a reward of P150,000.

Former hostage Roland Ulla confirmed that Jumdaini, who was arrested by government security forces near a theater in downtown Jolo, was a key figure in the Abu Sayyaf leadership.

Ulla, who is with the Department of Justice's Witness Protection Program, immediately recognized the 57-year-old suspect.

Yesterday, Jumdaini, also known as Abu Sahabat, Kiri Kirab and Usog Dakula, told reporters in Zamboanga City that he was the religious leader for the Abu Sayyaf.

Jumdaini joined the bandit group in 1992, through a certain Ustadz Hadjal. He helped Abu Sayyaf founders Abdurajak and Abubakar Janjalani take care of the spiritual side of the bandit group. In 1993, he met other Abu Sayyaf leaders including Radulan Sahiron, Ghalib Andang, Mujib Susukan, Doktor Abu and Muadz Sabtula.

"Jumdaini is one of the pioneering members of the Abu Sayyaf and has more knowledge about its operation because he is still an active member. His capture is a big blow to the group," Pirino added.

*Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AP*

# Workers urged to honor ban on going to Iraq

**By TJ Burgonio**

THE GOVERNMENT on Tuesday urged workers not to defy the ban on going to Iraq, saying another hostage incident may not end as well as that involving truck driver Angelo de la Cruz who was freed by Iraqi militants in July.

"We were successful in negotiating the release of Angelo de la Cruz. Now we can see that it will be difficult to deal with a new hostage situation," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye appealed to the families of overseas Filipino workers "to explain to their relatives how dangerous the situation is now in Iraq" and the chances of being kidnapped.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Sunday the government was drawing up evacuation plans for the more than 4,000 Filipinos already in Iraq should the violence there escalate.

The workers had been warned not to venture out of the US camps where they work, Sto. Tomas said, adding that the government would distribute booklets explaining what to do in case of attacks on the bases.

In Manila, thousands had been holding rallies to demand an end to the deployment ban on Filipino workers to Iraq, saying they had jobs waiting for them and were willing to take the risks involved instead of having to contend with the poverty at home.

## Illegals

Despite the ban, officials said more than 100 Filipinos seeking work recently managed to enter Iraq illegally from Turkey.

In July, De la Cruz was taken hostage in Iraq, forcing the government to withdraw its 51-man humanitarian contingent there early to meet his abductors' demand. The pullout drew strong criticism from the United States and other allies.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said it expected some of the Filipinos working in the US military camps to request immediate repatriation in view of the volatile situation, acting foreign secretary Jose Brillantes said yesterday.

"Definitely, there will be some who will request repatriation. Once they see [special envoy to the Middle East Roy] Cimatu and [Charge d'Affaires Eric] Endaya, that's their chance [to request repatriation]," Brillantes told reporters.

Cimatu, the head of Team Iraq, left for the war-torn country a few days ago to assess the situation of the Filipinos working there. Endaya has been monitoring the situation in Baghdad.

Brillantes, the current undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, said the government would pay to repatriate the workers if their employers should balk at doing so.

*With a report from AP*

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## SV Epistola; 79

PROF. Silvino Villanueva (SV) Epistola of the University of the Philipines died yesterday at 79 due to a lingering illness.

SV and his wife, Prof. Nieves Benito Epistola, who died on Sept. 10, 2002, served the UP all their lives. He started at the UP as a student assistant at the Department of Psychology, College of Medicine, in 1947 and ended his career as a professor at the Department of Philosophy in 1990.

He also taught at the Departments of English, History, Humanities and Sociology, and at the UP Asian Center, UP College at Clark and UP Extension in Manila.

He won the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature for fiction in English in 1951 and 1952.

SV's remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Necrological services are scheduled on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Cremation is on Oct. 2.

## Slain Today asst. business editor cremated today

JOSE Luis C. Villanueva, the assistant business editor of Today newspaper who was stabbed dead by robbers inside a bus along EDSA shortly past midnight Friday, will be cremated today, following a 10 a.m. Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City, his family announced.

At the same time, the family requested friends and concerned citizens who have been going to his wake to donate, in lieu of flowers, to the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists which was set up last year by major press organizations in order to help the families of slain crusading journalists.

He was 29.

After today's morning mass, cremation will follow immediately at the Heritage Memorial in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

He is survived by his parents, Louie Villanueva and Pilar del Castillo, and brothers and sisters: Miguel, Franco, Cristina, Marga, Santi, Mariana, Elena and Nacho.

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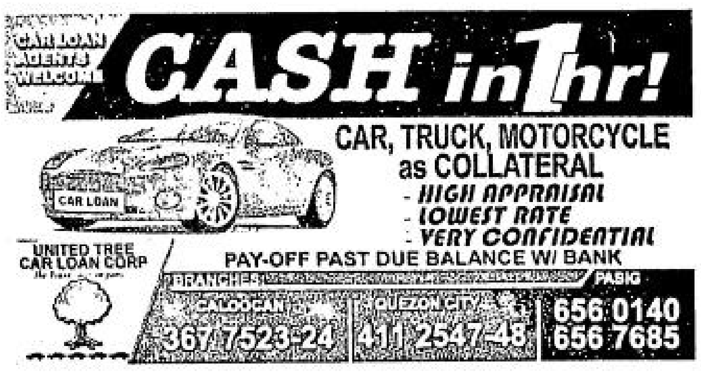
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# Raps filed vs 3 Pinoys, 8 foreigners in Cebu drug bust

MANDAUE CITY—The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) yesterday filed criminal charges against three Filipinos and eight foreigners who were arrested in the raid on three warehouses here that were being used to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

The drug operation was believed to be one of the biggest in the Philippines if not Southeast Asia.

The complaint for violation of Republic Act No. 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, was filed against Briton Simon Lao; Chinese Bao Xia Fu, Tau Hue and Liu Fu; Taiwanese Hu Tiao Yi and Lin-Li Ku; Malaysians Siew Kin Weng and Liew Kam Song, and Filipinos Joseph Yu, Allan Yap Garcia and Joseph Lopez.

The 11 were charged with manufacturing illegal drugs, which carries a penalty ranging from life imprisonment to death.

They were arrested on Friday and Saturday when anti-narcotics teams swooped down on the three shabu laboratories. Seized in the raid were 675 kilos of shabu with a street value of P1.3 billion and an undetermined amount of chemicals used to manufacture the drug.

The failure of local and police officials in Mandaue to detect the presence of the laboratories has prompted the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas to open an inquiry.

Ombudsman-Visayas head of public assistance Director Virginia Santiago said the probe would determine if the officials could be held liable for negligence.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay said the suspected financier of the drug operation had been located in Hong Kong.

Aglipay said Hong Kong authorities were working to secure a search warrant to enter the suspect's house. He declined to reveal the identity of the financier who was said to be a Taiwanese national.

The drug bust elicited the interest of US and Asian anti-drug officials, according to PNP Deputy Director General and Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force chief Ricardo de Leon.

De Leon said chemists of the US Drug Enforcement Agency arrived in the country on Sunday to assist in examining the seized chemicals. *Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau; Christian V. Esguerra and Nelson F. Flores*

# Captured soldier now NPA, says AFP

A MARINE sergeant, captured by communist rebels three years ago, has been recommended for dismissal from service, after the military discovered that he has defected to the New People's Army.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero yesterday said the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) had already recommended the discharge of Sgt. Jeremias Rosete.

"The Isafp recommends that Rosete be discharged from military service based on gathered proof and evidence that Sergeant Rosete, a Marine enlisted man, had already joined the New People's Army," Lucero said.

Rosete, who was captured by the NPA's Valentin Palamine Command in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat in September, 2001, was sighted several times in NPA camps, acting as an instructor for the communist guerrillas, Lucero said.

As a result, the military has halted Rosete's pay and allowances that are going to his family and stopped a scholarship that had been granted to his daughter.

Lucero explained that the Isafp Personnel Management Board recommended the dismissal of Rosete in a resolution dated Sept. 9, 2004. *Alcuin Papa*

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OCTOBER 1, 2004

ALL DAY EVENTS:

REGISTRATION
TRADE SHOW
- MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WINES
STONEHAVEN WINE MAKING GAME
- TRY YOUR HAND AT BEING A WINEMAKER
TOP DROP RATING
-VISIT THE WINERIES BOOTHS AND VOTE FOR THE TOP RED AND WHITE OF THE SHOW!
BLIND TASTING
-TEST YOUR WINE SKILLS, GUESS THE WINE, WIN A PRIZE!

SCHEDULED EVENTS

10:30 OPENING
12.00 LUNCH *
-SELECTION OF RESTAURANTS ON OFFER
2-3:00 CABERNET SAUVIGNON CHALLENGE *
-VOTE FOR THE BEST CABERNET SAUVIGNON OF THE SHOW
4-5:00 FILSELL BACK VINTAGE TASTING *
-TASTE PAST VINTAGES OF ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S FINEST SHIRAZ
6-7:00 OYSTERS AND WHITES *
-ENJOY OYSTER BAR ROCKWELL'S OYSTERS WITH THEIR CHOICE WHITES.
8:00 CLOSE

OCTOBER 2, 2004

ALL DAY EVENTS:

REGISTRATION
TRADE SHOW
-MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WINES
STONEHAVEN WINE MAKING GAME
-TRY YOUR HAND AT BEING A WINEMAKER
TOP DROP RATING
-VISIT THE WINERIES BOOTHS AND VOTE FOR THE TOP RED AND WHITE OF THE SHOW!
BLIND TASTING
- TEST YOUR WINE SKILLS, GUESS THE WINE, WIN A PRIZE!

SCHEDULED EVENTS

10:30 OPENING
12.00 COOPERS COOK-OUT *
-AUSSIE BARBECUE, COOPERS BEER, BROCKS REEF
2-3.00 SHIRAZ CHALLENGE *
-VOTE FOR THE BEST SHIRAZ OF THE SHOW
4-5:00 MOONDAH BROOK BACK VINTAGE TASTING *
- TASTE PAST VINTAGES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S FINEST WINERY
6-7:00 FLAIRTENDING
-WATCH AS THE TOP BARTENDERS MIX DRINKS IN A SHOWDOWN!
8:00 CLOSE

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|---|---|
| 15.25sqm | P421,357.50 |
| 16,16sqm | P446,500.80 |
| 17.40sqm | P480,762.00 |
| 20.30sqm | P560,889.00 |
| 21.62sqm | P597,360.00 |
| 29.19sqm | P806,519.70 |
| 34.29sqm | P947,432.70 |
| 45.63sqm | P1,199,156.40 |
| 52.20sqm | P1,371,816.00 |
| 66.00sqm | P1,734,480.00 |

San Antonio Village, Makati City
**PALM TOWER**
RESIDENTIAL UNITS

| | |
|---|---|
| 23.66sqm | P862,407.00 |
| 36.36sqm | P1,204,243.20 |
| 36.36sqm | P1,263,164.40 |
| 42.65sqm | P1,274,382.00 |
| 50.18sqm | P1,661,961.60 |
| 73.61sqm | P2,086,843.50 |
| 75.15sqm | P2,367,225.00 |
| 101.97sqm | P3,046,863.60 |
| 107.04sqm | P3,034,584.00 |
| 152.02sqm | P4,432,903.20 |

Annapolis, Greenhills
**ATLANTA CENTER**
OFFICE UNITS

| | |
|---|---|
| 76.57sqm | P2,439,520.20 |
| 112.29sqm | P 3,850,424.10 |
| 138.13sqm | P4,624,592.40 |
| 157.08sqm | P 5,372,136.00 |
| 157.19sqm | P5,658,840.00 |
| 167.17sqm | P6,018,120.00 |
| 158.79sqm | P6,034,020.00 |
| 157.44sqm | P5,951,232.00 |
| 229.61sqm | P8,658,593.10 |
| 229.95sqm | P9,540,625.50 |

SUBDIVISIONS

Bocaue, Bulacan
**AYUKIT SUBDIVISION**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 50sqm | P110,000.00 |
| 50sqm | P110,000.00 |
| 60sqm | P120,000.00 |
| 100sqm | P200,000.00 |
| 131sqm | P262,000.00 |
| 146sqm | P292,000.00 |
| 151sqm | P332,000.00 |
| 179sqm | P393,800.00 |
| 200sqm | P400,000.00 |
| 205sqm | P410,000.00 |

Biñan, Laguna
**TOWN & COUNTRY SOUTHVILLE**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 116sqm | P226,200.00 |
| 120sqm | P234,000.00 |
| 150sqm | P292,500.00 |
| 173sqm | P337,350.00 |
| 182sqm | P373,100.00 |
| 209sqm | P 428,450.00 |
| 211sqm | P432,550.00 |
| 250sqm | P512,,500.00 |
| 267sqm | P547,350.00 |
| 300sqm | P 615,000.00 |

Antipolo City
**HILLS OF MAIA ALTA**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 153sqm | P535,500.00 |
| 160sqm | P560,000.00 |
| 168sqm | P588,000.00 |
| 173sqm | P605,500.00 |
| 177sqm | P619,500.00 |
| 195sqm | P682,500.00 |
| 300sqm | P1,050,000.00 |
| 306sqm | P1,071,000.00 |
| 326sqm | P1,141,000.00 |
| 357sqm | P1,249,500.00 |

Antipolo City
**COTTONWOODS HEIGHTS**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 202sqm | P760,000.00 |
| 212sqm | P805,600.00 |
| 217sqm | P824,600.00 |
| 230sqm | P874,000.00 |
| 242sqm | P919,600.00 |
| 254sqm | P965,200.00 |
| 304sqm | P1,155,200.00 |
| 325sqm | P1,235,000.00 |
| 385sqm | P1,463,000.00 |
| 413sqm | P1,569,400.00 |

Antipolo City
**FOLIAGE HILLS**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 177sqm | P672,000.00 |
| 178sqm | P676,400.00 |
| 180sqm | P684,000.00 |
| 182sqm | P691,600.00 |
| 184sqm | P699,200.00 |
| 185sqm | P703,000.00 |
| 187sqm | P710,000.00 |
| 202sqm | P767,600.00 |
| 216sqm | P820,000.00 |
| 240sqm | P912,000.00 |

Davao City
**TIERRA SOLARIEGA**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 174sqm | P 556,800.00 |
| 186sqm | P595,200.00 |
| 194sqm | P620,000.00 |
| 200sqm | P640,000.00 |
| 400sqm | P1,280,000.00 |
| 450sqm | P1,440,000.00 |
| 504sqm | P1,612,800.00 |
| 689sqm | P2,204,800.00 |
| 653sqm | P2,220,000.00 |
| 730sqm | P2,336,000.00 |

Lipa, Batangas
**MOUNT MALARAYAT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 715sqm | P2,266,142.84 |
| 925sqm | P2,931,723.25 |
| 1,032sqm | P3,270,852.32 |
| 1,238sqm | P4,066,379.38 |
| 1,297sqm | P4,110,751.41 |
| 1,459sqm | P4,624,199.16 |
| 1,566sqm | P4,963,328.23 |
| 1,608sqm | P5,096,444.31 |
| 1,772sqm | P5,616,230.92 |
| 2,198sqm | P6,966,408.33 |

Lipa, Batangas
**GOLDEN SUBDIVISION**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 80sqm | P118,680.38 |
| 81sqm | P120,163.88 |
| 99sqm | P146,866.96 |
| 100sqm | P148,350.47 |
| 102sqm | P151,317.48 |
| 119sqm | P176,537.06 |
| 120sqm | P178,020.56 |
| 139sqm | P206,207.15 |
| 144sqm | P213,624.68 |
| 170sqm | P252,195.80 |

Sabang East, Batangas
**GOLDENHILLS SUBDIVISION**
RESIDENTIAL LOT

| | |
|---|---|
| 60sqm | P94,666.67 |
| 60sqm | P94,666.67 |
| 60sqm | P94,666.67 |
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| 60sqm | P94,666.67 |
| 60sqm | P94,666.67 |

Calamba, Laguna
**PALACIO REAL SUBDIVISION**
RESIDENTIAL LOT

| | |
|---|---|
| 183sqm | P576,786.21 |
| 215sqm | P677,645.00 |
| 218sqm | P687,100.52 |
| 277sqm | P873,058.91 |
| 279sqm | P879,382.59 |
| 284sqm | P895,121.77 |
| 344sqm | P1,052,713.63 |
| 350sqm | P1,103,143.03 |
| 400sqm | P 1,260,734.89 |
| 528sqm | P1,664,170.06 |

Misamis Oriental
**PERLITA EXECUTIVE HOMES**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 73sqm | P36,500.00 |
| 79sqm | P39,500.00 |
| 84sqm | P42,000.00 |
| 86sqm | P43,000.00 |
| 89sqm | P44,500.00 |
| 96sqm | P48,000.00 |
| 102sqm | P51,000.00 |
| 104sqm | P52,000.00 |
| 105sqm | P52,500.00 |
| 109sqm | P54,500.00 |

Calamba, Laguna
**LAGUNA BUENAVISTA EXECUTIVE**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 56sqm | P112,000.00 |
| 160sqm | P320,000.00 |
| 170sqm | P340,000.00 |
| 180sqm | P360,000.00 |
| 194sqm | P388,000.00 |
| 199sqm | P398,000.00 |
| 200sqm | P 400,000.00 |
| 202sqm | P404,000.00 |
| 210sqm | P420,000.00 |
| 224sqm | P448,000.00 |

Leyte
**V &G BETTER HOMES**
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 266sqm | P157,299.21 |
| 297sqm | P712,307.05 |
| 300sqm | P177,405.12 |
| 600sqm | P1,439,004.15 |
| 613sqm | P1,470,182.57 |
| 640sqm | P1,534,937.76 |
| 877sqm | P518,614.30 |
| 1,465sqm | P3,513,568.46 |
| 1,791sqm | P1,059,108.56 |
| 2,964sqm | P1,752,762.58 |

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CONDO UNIT
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HOUSE &LOT
GREENHILLS EAST
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F.A 1,217.92sqm P132,350,000

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F.A 64sqm P 1,100,000

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MAHARLIKA EAST
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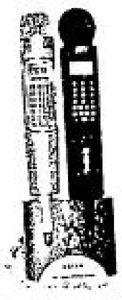

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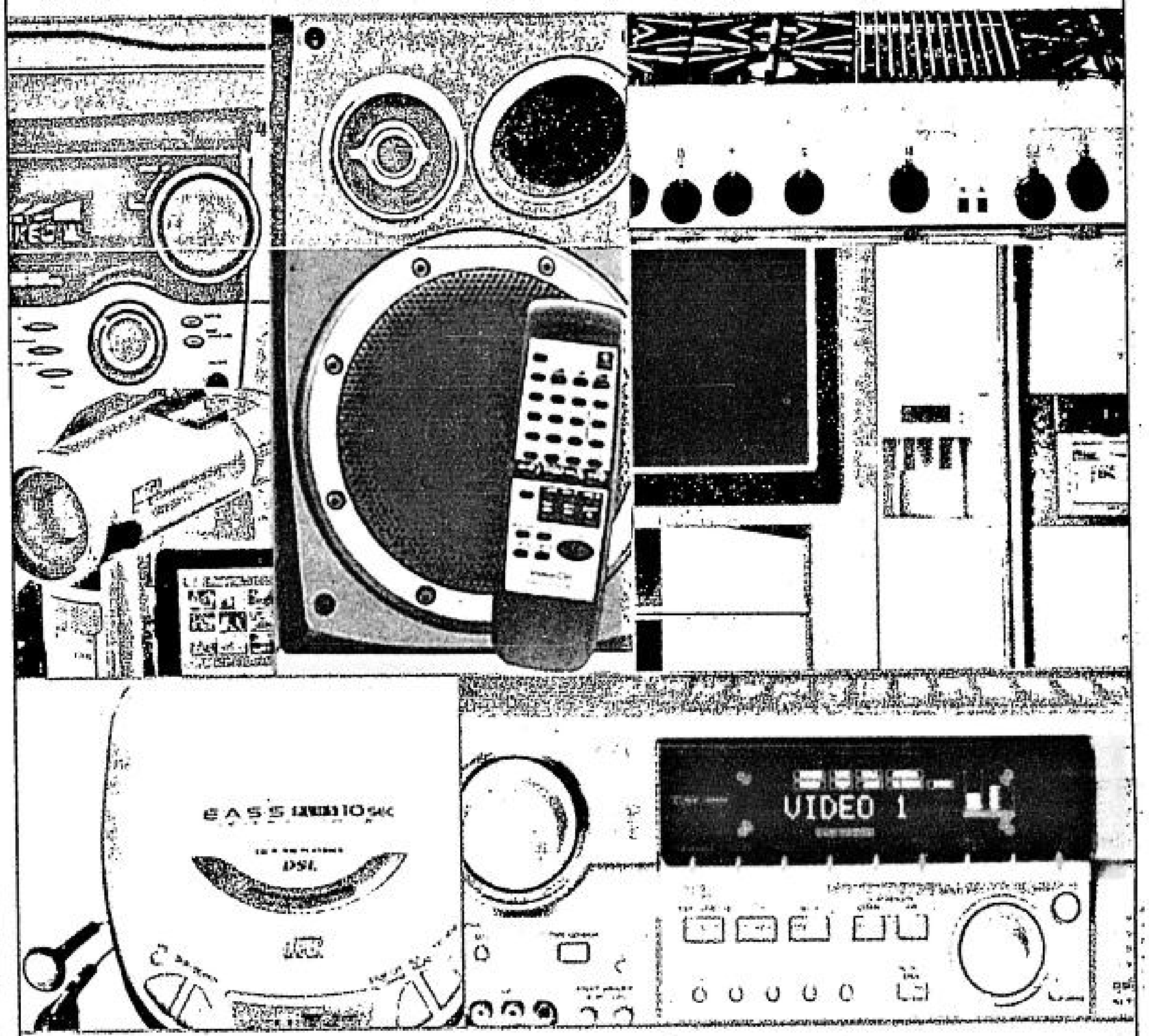

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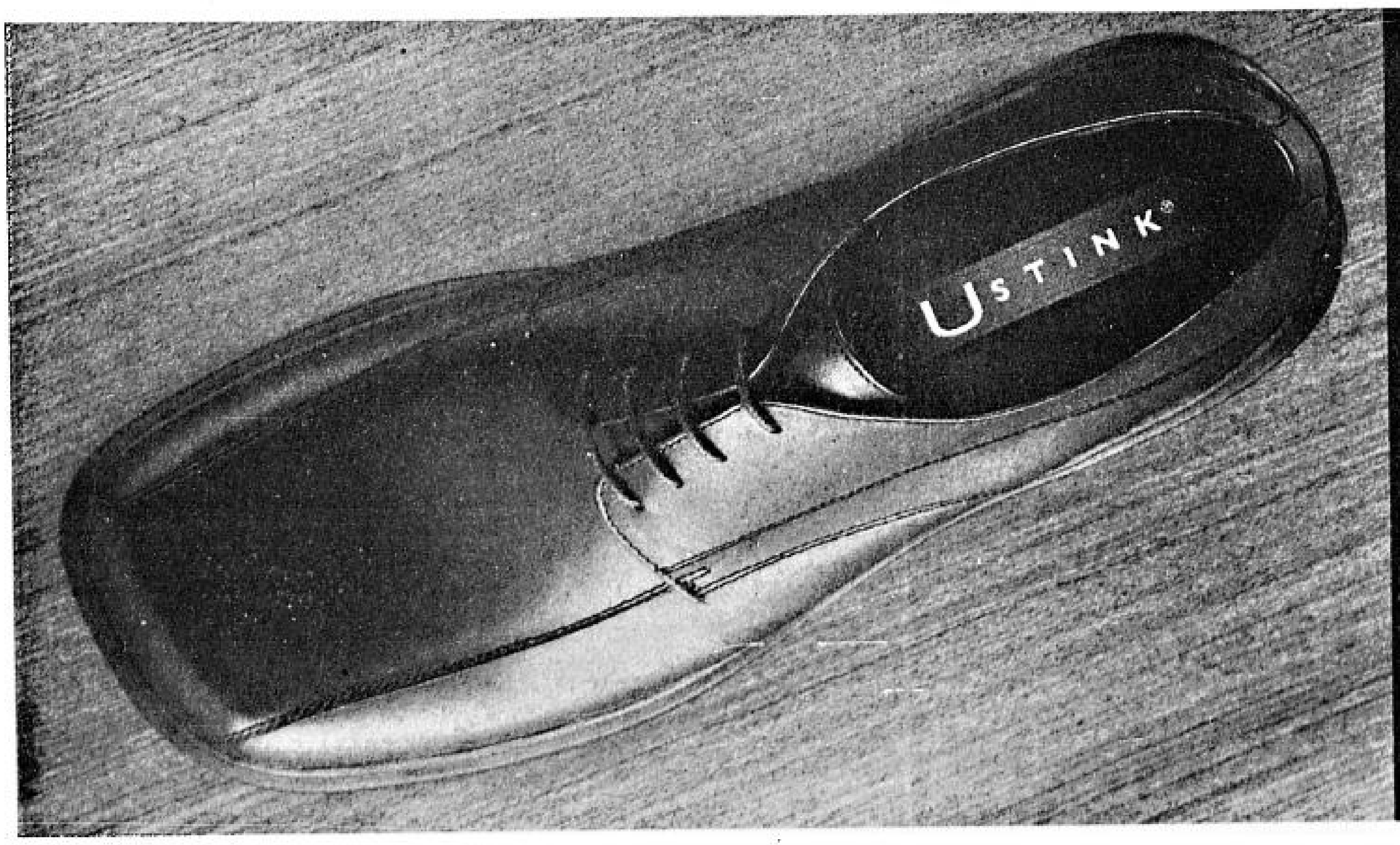

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# Palace: Save economy first, dance Cha-cha later

**SUPPORTING** Japan's campaign to have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo addressed the United Nations on Monday citing the "clamor for decisive reform." AP

From page A1

Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday in the wake of renewed calls for the country to remove protectionist provisions in the Constitution in order to encourage foreign investments.

## Malacañang timetable

Under the Malacañang timetable, elections to a constitutional convention which will draft amendments to the Charter may be held in 2007. Ratification of the amendments and the establishment of the new form of government, possibly a parliamentary system, may take place in 2010.

"The President has said she is in favor of reviewing the charter but it is a question of timing," Bunye said in a Radyo ng Bayan interview. "For now, we will tackle our immediate (economic) concerns."

## Actual change

"There is a timetable for that (Cha-cha). The actual change will have to take place within the term of the President but as for the actual serious deliberations, that would come closer to 2007."

## Out of the question

Bunye clarified that the shift to a new form of government would take place after Ms Arroyo's six-year term ends on June 30, 2010.

Cutting Ms Arroyo's term to pave the way for the new form of government as early as in 2007—as proposed earlier by some legislators—was "out of the question," Bunye said.

"The provisions of the new Constitution cannot affect the incumbent President," Bunye said, when asked to clarify his remarks in the radio interview.

## Constitutional convention

If Congress decides to amend the Charter through a constitutional convention, the election of convention delegates could be held simultaneously with the mid-term elections in May 2007, he said.

## Plebiscite in 2010

Some legislators, citing the expense of holding an election, had said they preferred a constituent assembly, to be composed of incumbent senators and congressmen, to draft charter amendments. But several senators opposed the idea.

Bunye said the deliberations of the Constitutional convention could take place between 2007 and 2010 so that the new Charter could be submitted to a plebiscite during the 2010 elections.

## Shift to parliamentary

Ms Arroyo said during the campaign for the May 2004 presidential election that she was amenable to cutting her six-year term so that the shift to a parliamentary form of government could be completed by 2007.

After her inauguration in June, Ms Arroyo said the parliamentary system should be in place after her term expires.

## Respite from Cha-cha

Senate and House leaders earlier agreed to set aside discussions on Charter change for 100 days to enable Congress to pass vital economic legislation needed to address the country's financial difficulties.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the House could resume debates on Charter change in January next year, after it had passed Ms Arroyo's proposed tax measures intended to address the budget deficit.

Government economists had called for the abolition of what they said were protectionist provisions in the current charter to facilitate foreign investments in such sectors as media and telecommunications.

# Save baby . . .

From page A1

development stage, and could thus be converted into any kind of cell, or cultured and grown into various body tissues and organs, like teeth, hair, nose, ear, leg bone, liver or stomach.

"Cord blood banking is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. When you bank your baby's cord blood stem cells, you are saving what may be a key component to future medical treatment and cures," Teo said, citing clinical studies begun in the 1980s.

## 1st private cord blood bank

Teo and Leong are two of the four founders of StemCord Private Ltd, the first licensed private cord blood bank in Singapore. Teo, the firm's medical director, is a world-renowned expert and pioneer in cord blood stem cell research and treatment.

Also present at the news conference were cord blood banking supporters Dr. Rebecca Singson of the Makati Medical Center and Dr. Lora Garcia-Tansengco of the Asian Hospital and San Juan de Dios Hospital. Both are obstetricians-gynecologists.

In September 2003, a year after StemCord was set up in Singapore, the firm opened a branch in Quezon City. According to its brochure, StemCord Phils. Inc. is "responsible for formulating and developing the courier, transport and delivery protocols in transferring cord blood collections from local hospitals to Singapore's cryogenic facilities."

The firm currently has about 3,000 "clients" in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

## Biological insurance

Teo described stored cord blood a "biological insurance" that could be thawed in the future and used to treat ailments that the child might suffer while growing up, including leukemia and other blood diseases, malignant tumors in the brain, breast, ovary, kidneys, lungs and testicles, and auto-immune diseases. It also assured the child of "spare body parts," he stressed.

In fact, the doctors said, ongoing stem cell experiments "promised future applications" in Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, liver and heart ailments, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injury, and strokes.

Singson explained that the procedure posed no risk to either mother or child: Cord blood is collected only after the baby has been delivered, and the cord cut. Plus, it usually takes less than five minutes, and can be performed in natural or caesarian deliveries, and in multiple births.

StemCord offers the syringe and bag collection methods. The first is similar to drawing blood for routine tests. In the second method, the cord is drained into a collection bag. After collection, the blood is hand-carried or transported by commercial courier to the firm's laboratory and cryogenic facilities in Singapore. It is processed, and then stored in vials that will be submerged in liquid nitrogen tanks at 180 degrees Centigrade.

Theoretically, Teo said, stem cells could be stored "forever." He recounted recent successful transplants of stem cells that were stored for 15 years.

## Ethical issues

Stem cells can also be be obtained from embryos. But Teo pointed out that this method had generated ethical issues since embryos were usually destroyed in the process. Cord blood banking was definitely "noncontroversial," he said.

The best part, according to Teo and Leong, is that the child will never have a problem looking for stem cell donors. Teo added that since stem cells in cord blood were more primitive than those found in bone marrow, there is a much lower risk of rejection, or less-than-perfect matches.

Also theoretically, a child's stem cell "savings" could also be used by siblings or parents or any relative. But Teo said StemCord, as a matter of policy, allowed use only by the child, unlike public cord blood banks elsewhere in the world, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

## Open an 'account'

Interested parents may "open" an account, which starts at US$600 for single birth and $900 for twins, and includes the cost of kit and medical supplies, laboratory processing and cryo-preservation.

Annual storage fee starts at $300 for single birth and $450 for twin births for the first five years. From the sixth year onwards, storage fee is pegged at $150 for single birth and $250 for twins.

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# *The* WORLD

*Editor* **Luverne B. Gueco**

## Kerry narrows lead of Bush, says new poll survey

WASHINGTON— Democratic rival John Kerry has narrowed the lead of President George W. Bush by three points among likely voters to 45 to 51 percent, compared to the first week in September when he was nine points ahead, according to a Washington Post/ABC News poll published Tuesday.

Taken three weeks after the Republican National Convention of Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, the new poll puts Bush ahead of Kerry by 51-44 percent among registered voters; showing no change.

Independent candidate Ralph Nader got a feeble one percent support from likely voters.

Bush had a bigger lead over Kerry among male voters (53-41 percent) than female voters (49-46 percent).

Bush's overall approval rating five weeks before the Nov. 2 presidential election remained at 50 percent, and his rating for having a clear plan to fight against terrorism continues very high at 62 percent, compared to only 36 percent for Kerry.

On the ongoing war in Iraq, Bush also had the trust of more voters (53 percent) in dealing with the insurgents, compared to Kerry (38 percent).

However, 51 percent said the Iraq war was not worth fighting for, compared to 46 percent who thought the contrary.

Massachusetts Senator Kerry is still favored over Bush by voters who put the economy at the top of their list of priorities by a 59-34 percent margin.

Fifty percent of those surveyed disapproved of how Bush was handling the US economy, against 47 percent who approved.

The survey was conducted by telephone among 1,204 adults, with a margin of sampling effort of plus or minus three percentage points.

Meanwhile, Bush on Monday sharpened his jabs against Democratic challenger John Kerry, who called for an end to the nasty advertising war that he said was scaring off voters three days before the rivals' first televised debate.

Another poll showed Bush had maintained a slightly smaller lead over Kerry compared to 10 days ago, with the president eight percentage points ahead of the Massachusetts senator among likely voters.

The USA Today/CNN/Gallup survey gave Bush 52 percent, against 44 for Kerry.

Campaigning in the crucial battleground state of Ohio, Bush mocked his rival as fickle on national security issues like the war to oust Saddam Hussein, saying Kerry shifts so much on Iraq he "could spend 90 minutes debating himself." *AFP*

## *Al-Qaida threatens to disrupt US elections, officials say*

WASHINGTON—Al-Qaida's threat to attack the United States before the Nov. 2 election is geared less toward affecting the outcome of the presidential race than toward making a violent statement to Islamic extremists worldwide, senior counterterrorism officials said Monday.

The officials said the network's aim in the United States, and in other countries as well, is mainly to disrupt the democratic process in a more general sense.

"Striking America at a time of heightened sensitivity, perhaps they would see that as a feather in their cap," said one senior administration official, who along with three others briefed reporters on condition of anonymity Monday about the pre-election threat.

The official said that while intelligence repeatedly indicates that al-Qaida operatives oppose President George W. Bush, no evidence has been found that they hope a successful attack might boost the candidacy of Democrat John Kerry. The anti-Bush sentiments, the official said, are part of a broader hatred of the United States and Western democracies as a whole.

"It's really not for our consumption," the official said of the motive behind any attack. "It's for their supporters."

Vice President Cheney sparked intense Democratic outrage this month when he said while campaigning in Iowa that if voters make the "wrong choice" on Nov. 2 "the danger is that we'll get hit again." Cheney later said he did not mean that if Kerry were elected that al-Qaida would attack.

Terrorism analysts and government officials have said, however, that al-Qaida was emboldened by the March commuter train bombings in Madrid, which was a factor in the ouster of Spain's former ruling party. *AP*

### BIRD FLU VIRUS

## WHO confirms 1st 'probable' human-to-human infection

**GENEVA—The World Health Organization on Tuesday confirmed that it was examining a "probable" first full case of human-to-human transmission of bird flu in Thailand.**

However, a WHO spokesperson said the case appeared to have been confined to the immediate environment of the victims, a mother and her daughter.

"We agree that it's a probable human-to-human case," WHO spokesperson Dick Thompson told AFP.

"It raises our concern, that's for sure, but it's not unexpected," he added.

Thailand on Tuesday confirmed its tenth death from bird flu and the first probable case of human-to-human infection in an outbreak that has swept Asia this year.

Pranee Krongkaew, 26, died eight days ago and probably caught the disease while caring for her sick 11-year-old daughter, officials in Thailand said on Tuesday. The girl also died this month from suspected bird flu.

"What we're more concerned about is if there were efficient transmission of the virus from human to human," Thompson told AFP.

"Right now the preliminary information seems to be that this may have come to a dead end in this village," he added.

Thompson said that in a close-knit family, the mother might also have been exposed to the same sources of the disease as her daughter.

More information was being sought on the case, including an analysis of the genes in the virus.

"That's under way right now so we should know more within a few days," Thompson said.

But officials played down the worst fears of the WHO that the virus could have mutated into a highly contagious form that would trigger a global human flu pandemic.

Thailand's public health ministry said the probable spread between humans had been limited to a single family.

"Although the finding of probable human-to-human transmission is clearly of concern, there is currently no evidence of ongoing chains of transmission or risk to persons outside of the affected province," it said in a statement.

"This isolated episode of probable human-to-human transmission would not pose a significant public health threat."

The ministry statement said experts believed there was "no evidence to suggest that the virus has mutated or reassorted," a view backed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC).

A mutated bird flu outbreak was blamed for the deaths of as many as 40 million people worldwide in 1918.

A recent study had found that health care workers in Hong Kong had been infected with the most virulent strain of bird flu, H5N1, from patients they were caring for during an outbreak there in 1997, according to the WHO.

But they had not reported outward symptoms of the illness.

"There has been transmission in the past without illness," Thompson said. *AFP*

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# Over 2,000 feared dead in Haitian city

GONAIVES, Haiti—Devastating floods unleashed by Tropical Storm Jeanne are feared to have killed more than 2,000 people in the northern Haitian city of Gonaives, the city's mayor said Monday, as searchers keep discovering more bodies 10 days after the storm struck.

Thousands more remain homeless after torrential rains and floodwaters ripped through this coastal city, 170 km north of Port-au-Prince.

The government, international aid groups and UN peacekeepers are trying to bring disaster relief, but gangs of men wielding metal bars have attacked food convoys arriving in Gonaives.

"We don't have an exact toll yet, but our calculations surpass the estimates given by the civil protection authorities," Gonaives Mayor Calixte Valentin told local radio.

Civil protection authorities put the official death at least 1,514, with 952 remaining missing.

Gonaives has a population of between 200,000 and 250,000 people.

The city was wrecked by the storm. Hundreds of inhabitants have set up temporary homes in Gonaives' central cathedral, while health officials fear outbreaks of diarrhea and typhoid fever.

Valentin said another 50 corpses were recovered in the Dolan neighborhood where they had been buried in a mass grave.

"In total, 10 common graves have been dug for bodies that we have found in recent hours among the rubble of destroyed homes, under mounds of mud and along the shoreline where bodies have been washed up by the sea," the mayor said.

Valentin criticized what he said was a lack of security and order in the distribution of much needed food and aid.

International troops in a UN peacekeeping force have been mobilized to secure key food distribution points and stop them being overrun by starving Haitians.

The troops fired warning shots into the air and detonated tear gas over the weekend to disperse mobs who threatened to ransack some food centers.

Haiti's interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue on Sunday raised the prospect of temporary evacuations in Gonaives.

"We're studying the possibility of evacuating parts of the city, by neighborhood, in order to clean and disinfect homes to diminish the risk of epidemics," Latortue said.

Further aggravating aid efforts, the main hospital in Gonaives was also struck by the floods, which are believed to have killed several hundred bedridden patients.

One of the world's poorest countries, Haiti has the worst deforestation in the western hemisphere, depriving many areas of natural protection from flooding. It had already been ravaged by killer floods in May and deadly civil strife earlier this year.

Countries from the Americas and Europe have pledged emergency funds and shipped several tons of aid, including food and medicine.

The Vatican announced Monday that Pope John Paul II had ordered the donation of $100,000 to flood victims in Haiti.

The money is earmarked to buy drinking water, food and medicine for the victims of the deadly storm which struck Haiti on Sept. 18. It also ravaged the neighboring Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. *AFP*

# Asteroid passes closest to Earth in 651 years

WASHINGTON—An asteroid named for a Celtic god of war will come as close to Earth today as it has since 1353.

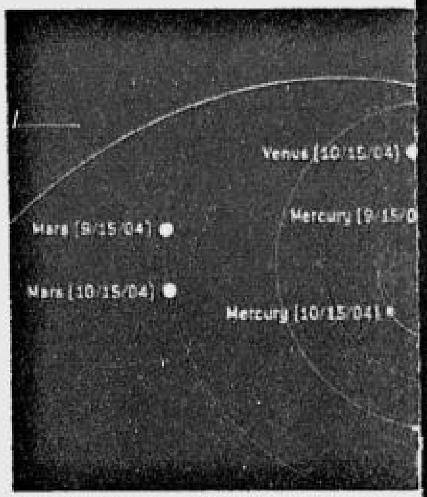
The space rock known as Toutatis will come today within about 1.5 million km of Earth, relatively close by cosmic standards, Astronomy Magazine said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

Toutatis poses no danger to Earth. However, if it did hit our planet, it would create a blast with the energy equivalent to 1 million tons of TNT.

Measuring about 4.5 by 2.4 km, Toutatis will speed by Earth at 35,000 km per hour.

This asteroid makes a roughly four-year trip around the sun that swings from just inside Earth's orbit to outside the orbit of Mars. Because both Earth and Toutatis are in continual motion, the distance between them at closest approach every four years varies greatly.

Today, Toutatis will be 250 times brighter than it was two months ago, but it will still be 16 times dimmer than



**IN THIS Astronomy Magazine handout g toward perihelion, or its closest point to t today.**

# Al-Qaida leader dies in detention

BEIRUT—A suspected leader of the al-Qaida network arrested in Lebanon last week over bomb plots against Western targets died on Monday from what security services said was a massive heart attack.

Lebanese national Ismail Mohammed al-Khatib, described as the top al-Qaida operative in the country, was among 10 people detained last week after security forces said they foiled a plot to blow up the Italian Embassy in Beirut.

The announcement triggered anger in his hometown in Lebanon's Bekaa valley, where residents challenged the official version of his death and several hundred marched on a Lebanese border checkpoint, hurling stones and bottles.

"Khatib was taken ill in the morning and taken immediately to hospital but he died of a massive heart attack," according to a statement from the Lebanese security forces.

It said the cause of death of the man, said to be 31, was given by authorized medical examiners. *AFP*

# St. Helens rumbles back to life

LOS ANGELES — Mount St. Helens, a volcano that devastated swathes of the US northwest when it erupted 24 years ago, has rumbled back to life, raising fears of a fresh explosion, seismologists said Monday.

Experts believe that a sudden and potentially dangerous event could be on the way after a wave of nearly 100 small earthquakes began hitting the area in the states of Washington and Oregon in recent days.

"We have had small swarm of earthquakes that begun last Thursday and are worried that a small explosion may occur without warning," said Peter Frenzen, a scientist from Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

"The earthquake activity is occurring below the dome—all this could increase the likelihood of small rock slides from the lava dome," he said, adding that the mountain had not been hit by waves of quakes since 2001. *AFP*

# Living in a Grand Shangri-La

**In James Hilton's novel, "Lost Horizon," Shangri-La was a place hidden away from the raucous storms of the outside world — a haven, a respite, a secret paradise. Today, a Shangri-La is rising at the corners of Dela Rosa, Perea and Nieva streets in Legaspi Village, at the heart of Makati's central business district. The Kuok Group's latest property development project in the Philippines, The Shang Grand Tower, is strategically located in the midst of life's most dynamic section. It's a short walk away from the bustling commercial and entertainment centers of Greenbelt and Glorietta, and a mere stone's throw away from some of the most prestigious business addresses in the city like The Enterprise Center and The Makati Stock Exchange.**

While its Makati location makes business and pleasure easily accessible to its residents, The Shang Grand Tower places a premium on privacy and security. Though residents live at the center of it all, they are sheltered from the noise and pollution of the street. All 250 bedroom units in this 46-storey structure are located above the fifth floor, safely above the noise and din of traffic.

Two separate elegant lobbies, one for the low zone and the other for the high zone, can be found in the building. A buyer has a choice of one, two and three-bedroom units. The floor area of the units ranges from 80 to 275 square meters. Two Grand Penthouse units top the 45th and 46th floors. On the 5th level is the Amenities Floor which effectively shields the residential floors. They can relax and unwind in the gym and fitness centers, function rooms, tropical garden and pool. Parking space is amply provided for, with four parking levels at the basement and three levels at the podium.

The interior design of The Shang Grand Tower is generally contemporary with the combination of warm and natural materials. The design of the building is a collaboration between Hong Kong-based Palmer and Turner and renowned Filipino architects, Recio & Casas.

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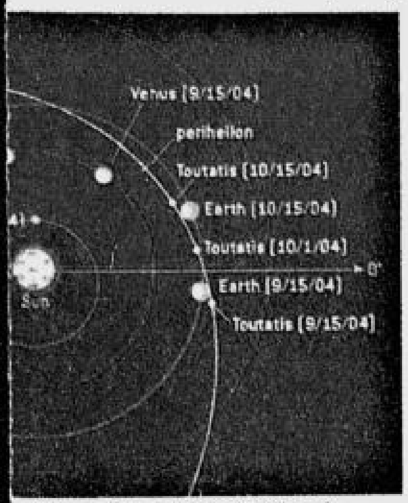
*Rico and Nena Tantoco, proud owners of a unit at The Shang*



**aphic, as Asteroid Toutatis heads he Sun, it makes a close pass by Earth**
REUTERS

the faintest stars that can be seen with unaided eyes.

Normally, Toutatis could be spied with binoculars from locations away from city lights, but the brightness of the nearly full Moon on Wednesday will make the asteroid harder to see. *Reuters*

# Russia wants tougher UN action vs terror

UNITED NATIONS—Russia introduced a draft resolution calling for a new list of suspects who would be subject to extradition in a stepped-up global campaign against terrorism. China welcomed it, but Pakistan and other Security Council members eyed the proposal with caution.

Russia, which has denounced Western countries for granting asylum to Chechen leaders it has linked to violence, has been pushing the United Nations to take tougher action against terrorists and circulated the draft last week.

The Russian draft introduced Monday condemns all acts of terrorism and stresses the need for the 15 council nations to "cooperate fully" in tracking down the perpetrators and organizers of terrorist attacks.

It asks the committee monitoring what governments are doing to fight terrorism to consider how to draw up a new list of "individuals, groups and entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities." It also asks the committee to consider sanctions to be imposed against those on the list—including freezing assets, a travel ban and an arms embargo—and to consider the "expedited extradition of anyone named in the list."

The proposed text defines terrorism, reminding "that any act intended to cause death or serious injury to civilians or taking of hostages with the purpose to provoke a state of terror, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, constitute terrorist acts ..."

Russia's UN Ambassador Andrey Denisov said council experts would meet Wednesday to consider the draft, and he was hoping for a vote later this week or early next week.

Denisov said the Security Council is united in fighting terrorism but he said "some countries have some problems ... with definitions of terrorism, first, and the specific balance between international law and national legislative systems" with regard to asylum, extradition and the list of suspects.

Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said seeking to put a definition of terrorism in the draft, drawing up a list of terror suspects, and the issue of asylum are "going to be difficult."

"If it's a general list, everybody's going to put his favorite guy, or gal, on the list," he said. "There will be no agreement on such a general list."

He noted that the General Assembly has tried for years to define terrorism but has never reached consensus. One problem is that one country's terrorists are sometimes another country's freedom fighters, several council members said.

The extradition issue also poses problems with some countries supporting it, some opposing it and some wanting assurances that the suspects would not face the death penalty, torture, or other human rights violations, Akram said.

"Our feeling would be that the Russians would do well to focus on the terrorist organization or organizations that have been attacking them and go for them in the same way that we went for al-Qaida," he said.

US Deputy Ambassador Stuart Holliday said US legal experts were studying the draft.

German Ambassador Gunter Pleuger said the document was being reviewed by the justice ministry in Berlin.

"This is a very complicated question, and we will see how we can have a resolution that really furthers the tide against terrorism without infringing in any way national law, constitutional law, and so on," Pleuger said.

But Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said, "We're quite positive to it."

"A number of things have to be worked out, but the overall approach—we're quite content with," he said. "The question of definitions of terrorism, listing organizations, have merits and problems, so we'll have to work that through."

China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya strongly endorsed the Russian draft on Friday.

"It's a good resolution because it's an important issue, and we have to address it," he said. *AP*

# Israel threatens strikes on Syria

JERUSALEM—Israel accused Syria on Monday of "directing terrorism" and warned it could face preemptive strikes against militants on its territory, but stopped short of saying it killed a Hamas leader in Damascus.

Syria had accused Israel of terrorism following the Palestinian militant's death in a car bombing on Sunday, three weeks after Hamas killed 16 Israelis in bombings Israel blamed on the Islamic group's exiles in Damascus.

In the latest violence, an Israeli helicopter missile strike killed a Palestinian militant traveling with other members of the Popular Resistance Committees, an umbrella militant group, in a car in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis, medics said.

The Israeli army said it targeted a "senior PRC member" responsible for dozens of shootings and mortar bomb attacks.

Shortly after the helicopter attack, Palestinian gunmen kidnapped an Israeli Arab producer for the CNN television network from a car in Gaza City after asking for him by name.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Such incidents involving journalists have been rare in Gaza and in the West Bank during the past four years of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot dead two fighters trying to plant a bomb near Gaza's border fence, Palestinian security sources said.

In the West Bank, Israeli police arrested a Jewish settler for the shooting death of a Palestinian taxi driver, and in the city of Nablus, soldiers killed two Palestinians during what residents said were confrontations with stone-throwers. Israeli military sources said the troops shot two armed men.

Taking aim at Syria, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said the Jewish state's northern neighbor was "a central junction in regional terrorism" and President Bashar al-Assad "works there as the traffic officer."

"Syria is responsible for directing this terrorism against us and therefore it cannot be immune to our operations aimed at preventing terror," Boim said on Israel Radio. *Reuters*

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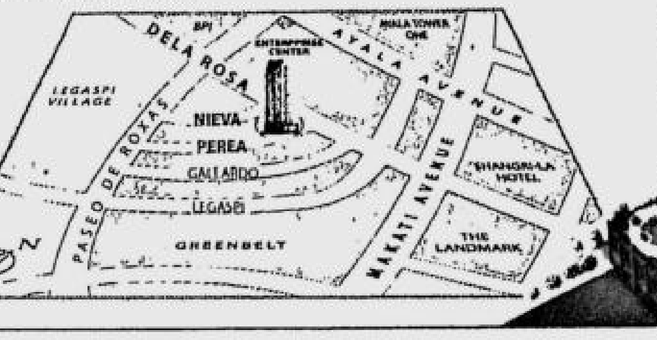

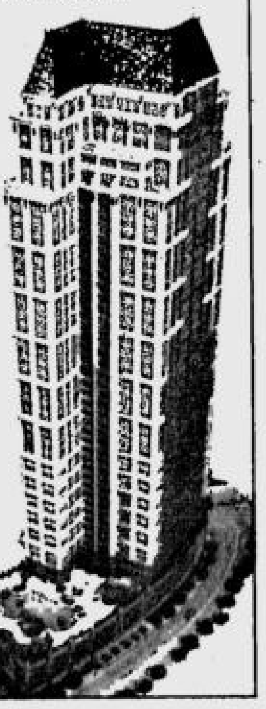

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Landscaping consultation for the tower was provided by Belt Collins, international specialist in landscape architecture, land planning, urban design, resort engineering, environmental consulting, physical planning and theme/water park design. Design experts, Hospitality and Leisure Asia, are doing the interiors.

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# OPINION

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## 'Useless witness'

**EDITORIAL**

SHE said she left early because she did not want to "provoke an incident." But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago did just that, when she walked out last Thursday on a Senate investigation she was largely responsible for starting.

"I was afraid I might become too biting in my comments," Santiago said, by way of explaining why she quite literally turned her back on former President Fidel V. Ramos, the principal witness in the blue ribbon committee hearing on alleged irregularities in the Smokey Mountain reclamation project.

Santiago, whom Ramos defeated in the 1992 presidential election, continues to maintain that Ramos had cheated her of victory. And she does not bother to contain the contempt she feels for her one-time Cabinet colleague. Last Thursday, she characteristically called him "arrogant," and described his unprecedented testimony as nothing more than an exercise in "finger-pointing." Ramos, she said, with the practiced air of an expert in the political arts, was a "useless witness."

Now what exactly did Santiago expect, when she showed up at the hearing? That the first former president to testify in a Senate investigation would simply roll over and commit political and legal suicide? That he would 'fess up, so to speak? If she did, then Santiago should feel right at home in the chamber she calls "the Senate of idiots."

Questioned about the legality of the reclamation project, Ramos naturally testified that he had relied on the advice of his justice secretary (Franklin Drilon, now the Senate president) and his chief presidential legal counsel (Antonio Carpio, now an associate justice of the Supreme Court). His answer or defense was only to be expected.

What Santiago should have done, after Ramos stuck to his talking points, was to try to get him off his script. But all she managed to do was exchange one-liners with her political rival. At one point, Santiago told Ramos that he had not answered why a total of P3.1 billion was released to the controversial R-II Builders firm.

"I just answered that," Ramos replied.

"That's what you think," Santiago shot back.

And that was that.

All this absurd behavior raises the question: What are legislative investigations for? The short answer, of course, comes straight from the Constitution. They are "in aid of legislation." The long, comprehensive answer is more complicated and less complimentary. They are exercises in finger-pointing. More often than not, however, it is the legislators who are doing the pointing.

Consider the various hearings on the fiscal crisis or on related matters such as the proposed new tax measures. Essentially, our sainted senators and congressmen used these to shift the focus of public attention from the pork barrel to government-owned and -controlled corporations and Palace spending.

Or consider the hearings which dealt with the woes of the National Power Corp. These shifted the blame from the senators and congressmen who had approved the controversial arrangements, such as the retire-then-rehire scheme, to the government officials who implemented them.

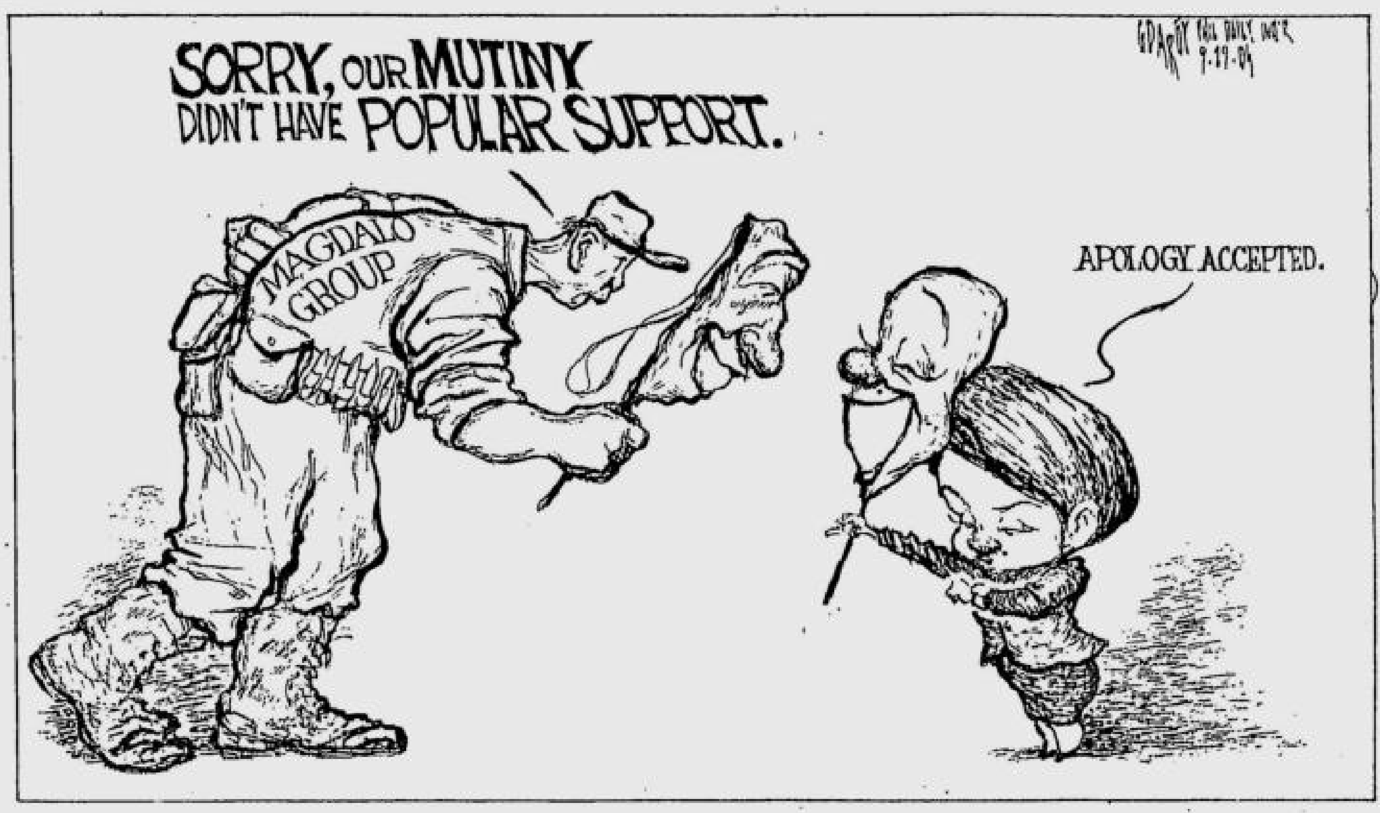
The Smokey Mountain hearing last Thursday had a similar finger-pointing quality, but it wasn't only Ramos who was doing the pointing.

The reality is, legislative investigations have been abused in recent years. Instead of being used as a public forum to find out the truth about an issue of undeniable public interest, legislators have used the hearings to press their case, to advance their version of the truth. We would characterize their behavior as ideologically driven, except that party and personal interest do not an ideology make.

The unfortunate thing is that this crassly partisan behavior no longer seems remarkable or out of place. Almost everybody seems to be practicing it. Indeed, the very notion that senators and congressmen can rise above party or personal interest is altogether quaint, an idea from an idealized past.

Is it too much to expect that an ex-judge like Santiago withhold her judgment during a legislative inquiry? Or use the immense power of the process to get at the truth?

We agree: a witness may be useless. But what uses did Santiago have in mind?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## Selling metro rail tracks is a stupid idea

**As I See It**

*Neal H. Cruz*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the sale of the Philippine National Railways railroad tracks in Metro Manila. She said that with the elevated Light Rail Transit and Metrorail there, the ground level railroad tracks are no longer needed.

This is the kind of mindless, knee-jerk and stupid decision-making that characterizes this administration.

Coming back from her visit to China, the President trumpeted the revival of the Northrail Line up to Malolos, Bulacan, to be funded by the Chinese government. The Southrail Line to Calamba, Laguna, will also be constructed. Eventually, the two lines will stretch to their original terminals in Damortis, La Union, in the north and Legazpi, Albay, in the south. But pray tell, how are you going to connect the two rail lines if the tracks running through Metro Manila have already been sold to squatters? How will the cargos and passengers from North and Central Luzon be transported to Southern Luzon, and vice versa? Will the cargos be unloaded from the train at the outskirts of Metro Manila and trucked to the other side of the metropolis, from where they will continue their train trip to their final destinations? Will passengers get off outside Metro Manila, take a bus to the other side, and then board the train again? Stupid, *'di ba*?

Besides, even with the LRT and Metrorail, we still need a commuter train. You cannot load fish from Pangasinan and vegetables from Baguio on these elevated rail lines. And you cannot load vegetables and coconuts from the south on them. There's not enough room even for passengers in Metro Manila, what more for cargos? Brainless, *talaga*.

This administration must be really desperate for money. It wants to sell everything, even assets that are literally nailed to the ground. And it is so afraid of squatters it doesn't even want to touch them.

It is now becoming clear why we are a poor, begging Third World country that is getting poorer every year. We do everything that is the opposite of what prosperous, progressive countries are doing. While countries like Japan, the United States, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom are developing and expanding their railroads, we are phasing out our own railroad by selling the tracks and right-of-way.

Japan, Europe and even China now have the fastest and most modern trains in the world. For even with the initial love affair with the motor vehicle, trains are still the most economical way of transporting the most cargos and passengers.

Fast trains to and from the inner cities to the open countryside are the surest way to decongest the urban areas. Millions can work in the cities during the day and still go home to the fresh air and open space of the countryside in the evening. They don't have to live in festering slums in the cities. Japanese who work in Tokyo can have dinner at 7 or 8 p.m. at home—as far away from Tokyo as Tarlac or Pangasinan is from Manila—because of the bullet train.

I am not saying that we should have the bullet train now. We cannot afford it yet. But we should have not only the national railroad from north to south but also a commuter rail to take passengers around Metro Manila and suburbs. Even with the LRT, Metrorail and the bus and jeepney lines, we still need them. Tokyo, New York and other modern cities have the subway, the train, the commuter rail and the highways at the same time. In addition, San Francisco has the elevated Bay Area Rapid Transit System. Besides these, Germany and California have high-speed autobahns and freeways. The United Kingdom has the tunnel under the English Channel to France, and Hong Kong has its own underwater tunnel to Kowloon.

We need not only the trains and commuter rails but we also have to increase the number of trains in the existing elevated rail lines. There are so many passengers who want to ride them because they are fast, but there is no longer space for them. It was expected that the elevated rails would lead to the demise of the buses and jeepneys and make car owners leave their vehicles at home; they are the causes of the traffic chaos in the streets below. But that is not happening because there are not enough trains. The passengers are there but not the trains.

The operators can earn more by buying more trains, but they do not want to invest any more money because they are content with their profits. The government has guaranteed their minimum income and pays for the difference between this minimum and their actual earnings, so why bother to invest more? That is why the government is losing so much money subsidizing them. They could earn profits from their operations by bringing in more trains but the government doesn't bother to force them.

There is a PNR rail right-of-way along Recto to Tutuban to the North and South Harbors. GMA may think they are no longer needed, but that line can considerably ease traffic in downtown Manila by taking the container vans to and from the piers on board cargo trains instead of truck-trailers.

Why did the government allow the PNR to deteriorate to its present wretched state in the first place? Up to the time of President Diosdado Macapagal, trains with first-class coaches ran from Damortis to Legazpi. You could take the night Bicol Express at Tutuban, sleep comfortably on board and wake up refreshed the next morning already in Legazpi.

When will that time come back again?

## Foresight

**There's the Rub**

*Conrado de Quiros*

I'M glad "Fahrenheit 9/11" will finally be shown in Philippine movie houses. Better late than never. The (pirated) DVD, of course, has been around for some time now, something I hope Michael Moore, whose website has had the most visitors for some time, will condone. I do know folk who are deep into the Web are possessed of the spirit of freeware and shareware. I can attest to that: the best video and audio software out there is free. In any case, Moore has always professed a desire to spread the Bad News about George W. Bush.

Nowhere should that have a more missionary effect than in this country, bastion of pro-Americanism in Asia. No, in all the world: you cannot find a people more in love with their former colonial master, as witness the witless coverage of Bush's visit to this country last year. You can't have a bigger exercise in obsequiousness, on the part of Malacañang, the media and the public.

I personally would be curious to see how "Fahrenheit" fares locally. It enjoyed a tremendous run in the United States, the documentary crashing into the Top 10 Movies list for several weeks, holding its own among big-budgeted blockbusters. Truly, truth is stranger than fiction, or more dramatic. I wrote about "Fahrenheit" a couple of months ago, suggesting that Congress make it required viewing in aid not just of legislation but of improving its members' minds. The suggestion, I understand, was received well: I learned that several senators and congressmen were looking for a copy of the documentary. (So much for Edu Manzano's crusade.) I still think the foreign relations committee of the House and Senate should watch it en banc. Preferably in the movie house, to give Moore some income.

Its showing could not have come at a better time, though any time would always be a good time in this country for things that disabuse it of its illusions. It comes not just on the eve of the US elections but at a time when we are groping for a policy to replace the disastrous one mounted by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo over the last three years since 9/11, which brought Angelo de la Cruz close to losing his head. It is a sublime irony, a government losing its head and nearly causing one of the governed to lose his. There is a lesson to be learned there, for those willing to heed it.

As "Fahrenheit" shows (which has been obvious to most of the world all this time but will probably still come as a surprise to many Filipinos), George W. Bush is to the war against terror as the Colombian cartel is to the war against cocaine. He is not its biggest prosecutor, he is its biggest obstacle. Bush owes his fortune, if not his fame, to the very family that bred Osama bin Laden, which is the Bin Ladens of Saudi Arabia. That explains in part his eagerness to turn his gaze away from Osama bin Laden and shift it to Saddam Hussein, even if the latter had nothing to do with 9/11 or with al-Qaida. As Bush's campaign to justify the war on Iraq further shows, he isn't just the biggest obstacle to the war against terror, he is the biggest contributor to terror. To carry out that war, he terrorized the American public, he terrorized the United Nations, and he terrorized the world.

A few days ago, I heard Roilo Golez being interviewed on TV. He was asked at one point if recent developments in Iraq were not a reason for him as former national security adviser, and the other members of GMA's war council, to admit they were wrong to have ardently supported that war. Golez answered that we could not afford to make judgments from hindsight, everyone was always right in hindsight. Where we were last year, he said, we had no choice but to support that war. We based our position on US intelligence reports, and "we had no reason not to believe them."

Why so? Why did we have no reason not to believe the lies issuing from the bowels of the Pentagon and the White House? Except for a few countries that formed the so-called "coalition of the willing" (Moore has some truly funny things to say about them in "Fahrenheit"), the whole world was against it. The UN was against it. Even the very UN inspectors of weapons of mass destruction were against it; they found no evidence of those weapons in Iraq. All we had to go on was the weird logic of George Bush and Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld that if the UN couldn't find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, it must be because Saddam had managed to hide them!

Why did we have no choice but to support the occupation of Iraq? What is this—in the event of doubt, *sugod mga kapatid*? No, this isn't a matter of making judgments from hindsight, this is a matter of looking at things with foresight. Or never mind foresight, just using common sense.

"Fahrenheit" should help drive home the folly of that tack, for those who still haven't seen it. It should also remind us of why De la Cruz was abducted to begin with, something we seem to have forgotten in the blaze of government's self-congratulatory, rescue-mode, chest-thumping afterward. I heard in the news some days ago that the government still refuses to send OFWs to Iraq on the ground that what happened to De la Cruz could still happen again. Well, we continue to defend that war, it will happen again. We condemn it as the immoral occupation it is, it won't.

I wish they would show "Bowling for Columbine" along with "Fahrenheit 9/11." The first is just as insightful, if not more so, and should have something to say about the deeper sources of the war in Iraq. But that can wait, maybe until "Fahrenheit" proves commercially successful.

But, no, a great deal of what is right and wrong we can see not just from hindsight, we can espy it from foresight.

Or never mind foresight, from just using common sense.

# GMA buys time on amnesty for mutineers

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

THE QUESTION of whether or not to grant amnesty to the Oakwood mutiny leaders who have apologized divides the nation along the conflicting arguments that amnesty would encourage further military "adventurism," and that it would promote political stability. The state of the debate is such that President Macapagal-Arroyo, as commander in chief of the armed forces, is unlikely to settle the issue immediately.

She does not give it a sense of urgency as there are more compelling issues such as, for example, the swelling fiscal deficit. The rebels' apology has been accepted, and the President is non-committal about clemency and the trial of the mutineers will go ahead. And until the trial is completed, there is no offense to punish or pardon.

This process buys time for the President. What she does afterwards will certainly stir up a storm cloud of controversy, for coups are a highly contentious issue that has polarized the country since 1986.

The President is not the type who grabs the bull by the horns when it charges. She is like a matador in a bull fight, nimbly sidestepping the furious beast and diverting it toward the cape. The case history of Ms Arroyo, written in bold letters, is one of temporizing with crisis while waiting for it to dissipate or for the intervention of events that present options for compromise. She is not a confrontational President, but evading confrontation has its dangers. When a leader is not in charge, events can spin out of control. Events tend to overtake hedging leadership, leaving it no option at all.

The debate over amnesty begs the question of why all the coups since 1986 have failed. A number of leaders of the rebellions that plagued the Aquino government from 1986 to 1989 have been put on court martial and cashiered (this cabal includes ex-Col. Gregorio Honasan and his RAM boys), and whatever the outcome of their cases, there have been a number of rebellions from 1989 that rocked the post-Aquino period, excluding the presidency of retired Gen. Fidel Ramos. The Arroyo government that was installed by the soft coup on the government of President Joseph Estrada comes close to the record of the Aquino government as the regime most rocked by coup turbulence.

Since his failed plot to stage a coup against President Marcos in 1985, Honasan has been implicated in coup plots against the Aquino and Arroyo governments. He has emerged none the worse for this record, as far as his political life is concerned. He won political vindication by being elected to the Senate.

Honasan's political career path tells us that the question of how the state should deal with military adventurism eventually boils down to a political question that is decided either by elections or executive action. That is what is happening to the Oakwood case. It has become a political question involving political pragmatism, for the time to teach a stern lesson is past.

The best time to serve mutinous soldiers the lesson that the state means business is at the time when the rebellion breaks out. Rebellion involves treason—the overthrow of the state—the most serious offense any citizen can commit. It is more serious than desertion during war, which is punished by execution on the spot to send a clear warning to the troops. The best time to instill the lesson of punitive action is when the rebels are caught in the act of mutiny. In hard states, rebels are summarily executed and summarily put on trial. But that's not the way we have been handling military rebels.

Since the coups on the Aquino regime in the 1980s up to the Oakwood siege, our approach has been less harsh and less summary and has favored negotiating a way out of stand-offs.

Soldiers themselves, not excluding the chain of command, were at the center of negotiations instead of the civil authorities whose fate depended upon the outcome of the soldiers' negotiations.

The chain of command has tended not to impose the ultimate decision which is summary execution. Although the military was fractured by the coups of the 1980s, military leaders, not excluding Ramos, engaged in negotiations motivated by the belief that soldiers should not shoot one another. So, during the coup crises, the soldiers themselves engaged in barracks politics to minimize carnage among themselves, even as it was clear to military factions loyal to the government that their opponents were at war with the state, which they wanted to overthrow, an offense deserving of the sternest punishment.

This same mentality of the military fixing the mess committed by its members to avoid carnage among themselves came into play in the Oakwood mutiny. Delicate negotiations to end the siege were carried out by no less than the chief of staff and senior military leaders, using their PMA network as the framework to soften the harsh edges of conflict.

Since the military has set the stage for the intervention of military leaders to act as mediators in state crises, within the framework of unwritten rules that soldiers should not shed one another's blood, it is pointless to carry on a debate in the civil sector over whether amnesty would encourage military adventurism.

This debate is irrelevant because it ignores the fact that military adventurism is decided inside the barracks where it is determined whether a government is legitimate and deserving of the support of the chain of command. So when the question comes up at the proper time over amnesty for the Oakwood rebels, it will not be decided solely by the President and the civilian authorities. The military will not leave this question entirely in the hands of the civilians.

# Violence and HIV

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

"VIOLENCE against women is both a cause and a consequence of HIV/AIDS," declares a joint report of UNAIDS, UNFPA and Unifem, titled "Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis."

While the true extent of violence against women around the world is unknown, current research indicates that violence at the hands of spouses or intimate partners "ranges anywhere from 10 to 69 percent, and one in four women may experience sexual violence from a partner in her lifetime." The figure doesn't even include violence at the hands of strangers.

Economic disruption, war or conflict also exacerbate gender-based violence, the document says. Globally, up to 2 million women are trafficked every year, many of them at great risk of sexual abuse and all at risk of HIV infection.

Being identified as HIV-positive also places a woman at greater risk of violence, from being beaten by a partner, abandoned, or thrown out of the home. Many women say they are afraid to ask their partners to change their sexual behavior or use protection, even if they suspect their partners are engaged in risky behavior. This fear of the consequences of "finding out," or of being labeled a "loose" woman, has kept women from being tested, from returning for their results if they are tested, or from participating in treatment programs.

Even those who agree to be treated have difficulty adhering to the regimen "because they are trying to hide their pills." At the same time, says the document, "while violence and the fear of violence make it hard for women to access prevention, treatment and care, the very fact that they are living with violence seems to increase their susceptibility to HIV."

* * *

**THE DOCUMENT cites the findings of a recent study, conducted in South Africa and one of the first to show a firm link between violence and HIV, that women who are beaten or dominated by their partners are much more likely to become infected by HIV than those living in nonviolent households.**

**Data gathered by the study showed that women who were beaten by their husbands or boyfriends were 48 percent more likely to become infected by HIV than those who were not. Those who were emotionally or financially dominated by their partner were 52 percent more likely to be infected than those who were not.**

**The increased vulnerability is tied to several issues, the document states. One is lack of control, for as it pointed out: "Male condoms or other protection are irrelevant when a woman is being beaten or raped." Another is physiological susceptibility. The WHO reports that during "forced vaginal penetration, abrasions and cuts commonly occur, thus facilitating the entry of the virus—when it is present—through the vaginal mucosa."**

**The risk is even greater for young girls. Their reproductive tracts "are not fully developed and are therefore prone to tearing during sexual activity." They are also more prone to sexual coercion, with up to one-third of adolescent girls reporting in several studies that their first sexual experience was coerced. Many girls are also married at a young age to older men, and "the power inequities inherent in these relationships can lead to violence or the threat of it."**

**Even more heartbreaking is that the risk of violence and sexual abuse is high among girls who are orphaned by AIDS, many of whom face a heightened sense of hopelessness along with a lack of emotional and financial support. In Zambia, for instance, human rights groups found that hundreds of young girls whose parents died from AIDS were being sexually assaulted by family members or guardians or forced into sex work to survive.**

* * *

UNLESS the link between gender-based violence and HIV is broken, "it will be hard to reverse the epidemic," the three UN agencies say. While the challenges are daunting, there are many models already in place that use a variety of approaches: utilizing the health care system, human rights protection, education, legal reform and working with community groups.

One thing is clear, though, the document notes. While men are the instigators of violence, they are also essential to the solution.

In many parts of the world, there are men's groups involved in examining men's own attitudes and behaviors, to see how these should be altered the better to put women and men, young and old, less at risk of infection. "I realized it was impossible to work around issues of gender when you haven't started with yourself," said a young man working as a peer counselor in South Africa.

* * *

**SUPER-ORGANIZED individuals (like I am not) may want to give an early start to their Christmas shopping at the much-anticipated Unifem Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 16 at the Makati Sports Club.**

**Unifem is a UN agency devoted to improving the status of women around the world and promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. In the Philippines, the Unifem Committee works with government agencies and women's groups on various projects for women.**

**This year's bazaar will feature new and unusual items as well as traditional bestsellers from some 115 vendors. Items going on sale at the bazaar include antiques and furniture, art pieces, home décor, precious and semi-precious jewelry, authentic hand-painted "Matryoshka" dolls from Russia, silver pieces from India and Cambodia, lacquer and mother-of-pearl pieces from Vietnam and the Philippines, silk and exotic fabrics and shawls from India, Tibet and China, native handicraft, Christmas ornaments, sports gear, homemade delicacies and many more.**

**Bring family and friends and win a trip to Hong Kong for two and other raffle prizes. Major credit cards are accepted.**

# Madness

**COMMENTARY**

*Ma. Dominga B. Padilla, M.D.*

HARDLY a week passes without news of the sorry state of our country's health care system. Government health workers are shaving their heads in desperation not only because of the pittance they get as wages but also because they do not receive even the basic salary due them. The government has slashed its health budget even further and now allocates a scandalous 35 centavos per Filipino for one of the most basic of human needs. At least 35 medical schools are on the brink of closure because of a large drop in enrollment while at least 2,000 physicians are expected to leave the country for greener pastures this year alone. The lack of new doctors has reached such a proportion that even the most sought after training institutions such as UP-PGH, which used to turn away so many applicants for residency, cannot even fill up half of its available positions today.

Patients in government hospitals around the country are already feeling the effects of this alarming trend. Soon patients in private hospitals will feel it, too.

This being the reality, one would think our legislators would be anxious to come up with laws that would encourage our health workers, especially our physicians, to stay. But no. Not a single bill filed in the Senate seeks to address this pressing problem. On the contrary, almost all the proposed legislation are punitive, aimed at punishing medical practitioners. But even more absurd is the fact that many of these proposed measures are rehashed bills that were trashed by previous Congresses, because of the clear danger they pose to the life of our already moribund health care system.

Among these rehashed bills is Senate Bill 1720 authored by Sen. Sergio Osmeña which seeks not only to criminalize "malpractice" but also to force all physicians and dentists to get "mandatory malpractice insurance." Well, at least Osmeña makes no effort to hide the real intention of his bill or who its ultimate beneficiaries will be.

How oppressive is this bill? If it were passed into law, for any "malpractice" (which, as defined, includes even the most minor, unintentional injury), a health practitioner would lose his license and be punished with a prison term plus a fine far greater than those prescribed by our penal code for crimes such as treason, frustrated homicide and even mutilation. The bill would open medical practitioners to harassment since anyone, even someone not related to the patient, can sue regardless of whether the patient wants to do it or not. Worse, the bill would even deny patients and their families the right to forgive their doctor and not allow all concerned to move on since it provides that even express pardon by the patient and his family "will not be a legal impediment to the prosecution of the crime, nor will it extinguish the criminal action still pending, nor will it constitute a ground for remitting the penalty already imposed." Even cold-blooded murderers are entitled to forgiveness, but medical practitioners, whose main purpose is to heal and serve, are deemed unworthy of this. Indeed, nowhere in the world is there a law against medical practitioners as harsh as this.

What has gotten into the heads of our honorable legislators? Is madness now an epidemic in our government so that our lawmakers believe creating an extremely hostile environment for our medical practitioners will help solve our pressing health problems? Is mandatory malpractice insurance the overwhelming cry of a country where at least 40 percent of people live in abject poverty, where many hospitals lack the most basic laboratory equipment and medicines? Is an oppressive malpractice law the answer to the plight of millions of Filipinos who die without ever being examined by a doctor simply because there is no one to be found?

Two years ago, a national witch-hunt against doctors was launched because of rabid media support for a medical malpractice bill whose provisions were identical to SB 1720. Even then we already warned the public that an exodus of doctors and nurses was likely to follow. Most people thought we were bluffing. But today we are witnessing this prediction coming true, and the worse is yet to come.

We, medical practitioners, are growing tired of fighting and of being called self-serving when all we want is quality health care for our people. We are weary of having to explain the obvious dangers of a bill that, like the undead, is repeatedly killed but manages to again come alive in various forms and permutations. But we cannot hire the services of spin doctors. We cannot possibly compete in this front, and the truth should not require any spin. All we can do is appeal to our patients and to media practitioners of goodwill, and let them see the real score. We pray that they, too, will fight the good fight and oppose such bills, not so much for our sake, because we can always opt to leave, but especially for their own.

If our legislators and our people cannot see what is staring us in the face and choose instead to believe the deceptive voice of vested interests, so be it. One day soon the concerned legislators and this bill's supporters will find themselves somewhere in the Philippines in desperate need of a doctor, and find only an empty hospital. Then perhaps they will listen.

*Ma. Dominga B. Padilla, M.D. is an ophthalmologist and one of five individuals recently recognized as a "Hero for Health" by the Department of Health and Pfizer Philippines for her pioneering work in eye banking that has restored sight to thousands of Filipinos.*

# A culture of risk and danger?

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

WHY do we constantly take risks? In Tagalog we use the word "*ligtas*" to mean safe, but think hard now, how often do you actually use the word? Think, too, if you can translate "Is it safe to cross the street here?" into Tagalog. Or, would you ask, "Is this medicine safe?"

These were the questions I had to grapple with in my head as I prepared a talk for the national convention of the Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists, who decided that for this year, their theme should be "Establishing a Culture of Safety in Health Care." I shared some points about the cultural aspects of safety during that convention, but I thought it might be useful to use my column today to look into why we seem so cavalier and careless about safety issues in general.

### Ignorant bliss?

Generally, people don't usually go around constantly thinking of safety issues as we eat, drive, cross the street or take medicines. In a way, that's a good thing because if we were so obsessed with safety issues, we'd end up paralyzed by fear.

On the other hand, people in developed countries are generally more conscious than those in developing countries of safety issues as these relate to food, medicines, our homes and offices and the natural environment in general. Environmentalist and consumer groups are supported by mass membership and lobby constantly for stricter safety standards for everything from cars to toys.

The differences in attitudes toward safety issues boil down to the way we perceive risks. Obviously, we'd have to start first with whether we recognize risk situations in the first place. For example, many people are unaware that the medicinal cabinet in the toilet is one of the worst places to keep medicines. A recent report from England warns that under very warm and humid conditions, certain medicines might expire even before the date stamped on the package. Now if that risk exists in England, you can imagine what it's like for a tropical country like the Philippines. Yet, unaware of research findings about the effects of heat and humidity on medicines, Filipinos, British, Americans and many other nationalities still believe a toilet is the best place for a "medicinal cabinet."

Moving away from medicines, we see all kinds of other examples of blissful unawareness that put people at risk. We see kerosene stored in softdrink bottles, for example, and kept in the kitchen next to food items. Not surprisingly, the Poison Control Center at the Philippine General Hospital keeps getting cases of kerosene poisoning. Pesticides, too, are often kept and used carelessly. I've seen in rural areas pesticides kept next to infant formula!

### Relative risks

Mass media and schools play important roles in bridging the information gap to help people become more safety conscious. On the other hand, not all of our risk-taking is caused by lack of information. We may be aware of the risks of doing something and yet continue to disregard warnings about those risks. I could name a thousand examples here, from not using pedestrian lanes to smoking.

One interesting explanation for this behavior is that people generally enjoy taking risks, with some people actually deriving a high from the most risky activities. Despite this enjoyment of risk, we do compare risks with benefits. Sometimes, the perceived "benefits" come from a no-choice situation. We know the pedestrian lanes are useless in places like the Quezon Memorial Circle and Commonwealth Avenue, given the Metro Manila Commission's flea-brained traffic scheme that has converted several of Manila's thoroughfares into racetracks. Sure, there are also pedestrian overpasses but these are built every two kilometers or so. Confronted with the risk of being run over and the hassle of having to walk several meters, for a Filipino, the "rational" choice is clear.

The relativity of risks gives rise to all kinds of forms of risk calculation. When we take medicines, we don't ask, "Is this medicine safe?" Instead, in English, Tagalog, Cebuano and whatever local languages we speak, we ask: "Is this medicine OK?"—with "OK" mainly referring to the expected benefits, relief from a headache, for example.

Another interesting example comes from the many interviews I've had with women who tell me natural family planning is not safe. Medically speaking, NFP is actually the safest, but the women explain it is "not safe" because it puts them at greater risk of pregnancy than, say, the pill.

Let's face it, given that the life of the average Filipino is already so fraught with risks, there's a greater tendency to trivialize even the most serious risks. When the government banned Filipinos from working in Iraq, there were vehement protests from those who wanted to go. I remember one applicant appearing on TV, quite agitated and angry, complaining that it is more unsafe to stay in the Philippines than in Iraq because here, their families were always in danger of starving.

Clearly, our notions of risks are based on the here and now. Many Filipinos, in fact, describe risk as *panganib* or danger, which isn't quite the same. Dangers are immediate, visible. For the Filipinos who want to go to Iraq, even the dangers in that country, so clear in the news, is still too distant, too invisible.

### Modernity and risks

If underdevelopment and poverty seem to make risk-takers of us all, there's another interesting theory of risk, from Ulrich Beck: that modernity (and development) actually puts entire societies into risk situations. Here, it is a blind faith in "progress" and in technological advances that make us so uncritical in accepting technologies, from medicines to nuclear plants.

Ironically, it is now in the most developed countries where faith in science is being challenged. As societies modernize, they move on to an "interrogative mentality," a situation of "reflexive modernization" where you have more skeptical and critical individuals. A patient, for example, is no longer, well, a "patient" patient, passively accepting all that the doctors say. In developing countries, we rush to take the latest drugs on the market; in developed countries, people will be more cautious and ask their doctor, "It's so new. Are you sure it's safe?"

With the explosion of information sources, people can and should be taught to ask the right questions about risks and safety. Safety then becomes truly a matter of *ligtas*, which is not just "safe" but "saved from" particular risks.

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LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# The price our national athletes pay

I FELT a stab in my chest and I cried when I read the article "We have become people of the lie" (PDI, 9/1704) by Dr. June C. Pagaduan-Lopez. It is for this reason that I am donating P5,000 through the newspaper to the family of athlete Perlito Ibañez. I am also writing this letter in the hope that our government will finally sincerely work to alleviate the plight of our athletes.

Way back in college, my cousins had a house in front of the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Since they were the only relatives I had in Manila and I was staying in faraway University of the Philippines, Diliman campus, I would pay them regular visits even if I wasn't feeling well. On Saturdays, my aunt would give me a P10-*baon*, serve me a simple lunch, then I would hie off to the track oval to watch games. That was my usual ritual before taking on another journey back to Diliman.

Thus, Rizal Coliseum became a favorite place for me during weekends. On days that there were no games, I would run around the track. Although a weekly spectator at the coliseum's sporting events, I never became competitive—if I did, I guess, only in spirit. But one thing I am really thankful for those Rizal Coliseum visits was nurturing my love for the Philippine flag. Every time I saw it dancing with the wind along with those from our Asian neighbors and other nations, I would feel a deep sense of pride, a different kind of high.

Rizal Coliseum continues to be my haunt when I feel like going back to my younger days. I would sit on its cement bleachers to plan and think about future concepts for my advertising job. Unknown to many, it's also a vantage point to watch a spectacular sunset and experience a soothing inner peace.

Little did I know that beneath those bleachers live and reside a number of our national athletes, barely subsisting, almost begging and living in dungeon-like decrepit conditions. I cried when a Philippine diver from Davao, plucked from his parents' care and brought to Manila to train, was interviewed on TV after giving our country's first ever Sea Games gold in the sport. He said "All I want is an air-conditioning in our athletes' quarters." I felt bad for that Palawan girl who had to go back home because her tricycle driver-father could not support her anymore. The girl had been consistently clocking under 12 seconds in the century dash, dashing our hopes for a future Lydia de Vega.

Away from their parents, these two youngsters must have suffered loneliness even as their schooling was disrupted, without relatives for support groups. There are many more athletes like them who are staying in the Rizal Coliseum, training and wanting to give our country pride and joy. But at what price?

—ROGER PE,
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1515 Series of 2004

## 'Immoral' debts should not be paid

LIKE Argentina and dozens of Third Word countries, the Philippines is in deep crisis after years of unjust debt payments to the usurious International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

It is immoral that the government keeps on paying the US-led lending institutions while the system of usury through high interest rates keeps the country in a debt trap.

It is pure hypocrisy and exploitation of the poor for the government to ask the people to sacrifice more while it continues to pay the debts accumulated by the corrupt Marcos dictatorship and succeeding regimes.

The fiscal crisis our country is now facing has ripened through decades of anti-people economic policies dictated by global institutions controlled by the world's richest countries. Year after year, the largest national budget allocation is for debt servicing; and for 2005, 70 percent of the proposed budget is designated for debt servicing.

Charity and other fund-raising activities of the churches and other well-meaning sectors can never be enough to solve the fiscal crisis as long as billions of public funds are automatically appropriated for debt payments to international financial institutions, private multinational banks and governments of wealthy nations.

The real solution to our fiscal woes requires an economic and fiscal policy that upholds our national sovereignty and the interests of the majority, not the interests of the biggest tax evaders and greedy capitalists.

We, of the Promotion of Church People's Response, condemn the government for paying the usurious interests to the IMF-WB and accepting additional loans that are again tied to extremely high interest rates, proposed new tax measures and the whole package of liberalization, deregulation and privatization—the very evils condemning our country to further indebtedness and fiscal crisis.

The cancellation of immoral, onerous, fraudulent and behest loans is long overdue.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM,
national co-chair,
Promotion of Church People's Response,
879 Edsa, Quezon City

## Let's get to the bottom of the fiscal crisis

YES, there is indeed a fiscal crisis. Yes, it's huge and could pull the entire economy down.

But with all the grandstanding, it's real cause might remain hidden.

Take the issue of the proposed 2005 budget. All eyes are on the "pork barrel" and point at it as the main cause. But is it really? Yes, the Priority Development Assistance Fund of our legislators is basically unnecessary. But remember, the PDAF is merely one percent of the entire budget.

What's the biggest slice? Subsidy to the government-owned and -controlled corporations, particularly the National Power Corp. which is supposedly an income-generating agency. When does a monopoly become a losing venture? Only when it is badly mismanaged, to put it most kindly. Napocor is getting P140 billion to prop up its finances.

One can cite a lot of causes and assign a percentage weight: corruption—10 percent; inefficiency—10 percent; overstaffing—20 percent; onerous independent power contracts—20 percent; peso depreciation—30 percent; and others—10 percent. Let's do a more in-depth study to validate the above-cited figures.

Let not good soundbites muddle what an insightful analysis can provide.

—MADED JR BATARA,
mbatara_jr@yahoo.com

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InqBox
Winner Romel Tabug with his Guyito stuffed toy

Question of the Week

**What is your reaction to the plan of the government to raise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol/beer (ex. P1 to P2 pesos per cigarette pack), to help reduce our fiscal deficit?**

*Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's* **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer t-shirt! :)*

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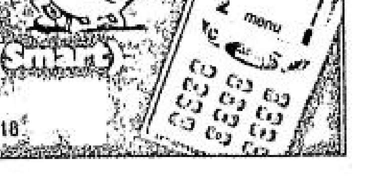

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## Abra pols to give up guns, not goons

**BAGUIO CITY—Abra Gov. Vicente Valera, the province's mayors and members of the militia Cordillera People's Liberation Army, have agreed to surrender their firearms in two weeks to the police, Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, Cordillera police director, said on Tuesday.**

But no politicians made any commitment about turning over members of their private armies to authorities, Albano said in a press conference.

He said police are negotiating a diplomatic solution to the issue of politicians maintaining armed groups, which the INQUIRER exposed in a three-part series.

Philippine National Police Chief, Director General Edgardo Aglipay, gave Albano until December to disband all private armies in Abra during last week's peace and order council meeting attended by police and local officials in Bangued, Abra.

Albano said Abra officials agreed to his proposal after he offered to assign to them hourly police security detail coming from the PNP Special Action Force (SAF).

He said La Paz Mayor Marc Ysrael Bernos agreed on behalf of three Abra mayors critical of Valera, but at least 21 other mayors who were aligned with Valera were also being compelled to surrender their firearms.

Bernos admitted that mayors hired armed bodyguards to protect themselves from political assassins.

Valera, who denied maintaining a private armed group, is surrendering three automatic rifles.

Should talks fail within the next few days, Albano said he is ready to arrest politicians who have implicated themselves during the peace and order council meeting.

He said evidence have also been drawn to prosecute people who helped develop Abra's private armed groups.

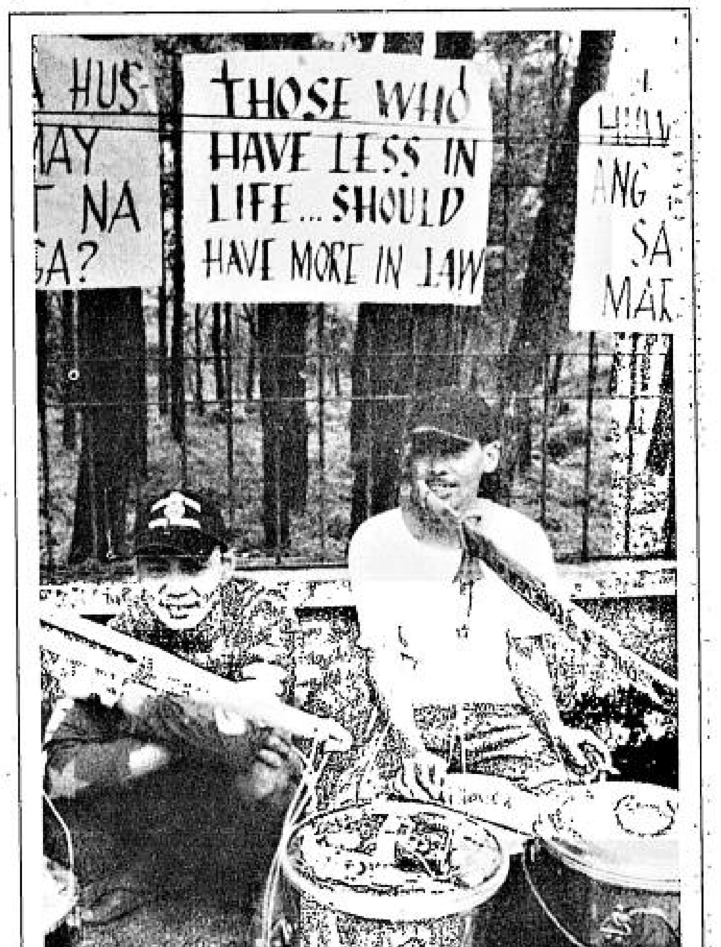
Aglipay also wanted the police to track down the politicians' gun suppliers to determine how firearms were being distributed in the Cordillera, a police source said. Outside of Abra, various armed groups are also known to ply the villages of Kalinga, Mt. Province and the borders of Ilocos Sur.

"I have coordinated with the Region 1 (Ilocos) police and we have our roles to play. If armed groups from the Ilocos go to the Cordillera, I will arrest them immediately.' If Cordillera gunmen go to the Ilocos, they will arrest them," he said.

The police measures also cover a militia that negotiated a peace pact with the government in 1987.

Albano said he assigned three policemen to guard Bucloc Mayor Mailed Molina, chief of a CPLA faction called "Unified CPLA."

Molina is turning over three rifles as a measure of good faith, Albano said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*


THOSE WHO HAVE LESS IN LIFE... SHOULD HAVE MORE IN LAW
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**MORE IN LAW** VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Vendors sit by posters opposing what critics said were exorbitant increases in court fees during a rally of lawyers in Baguio City.

## Head of mayors' group backs new office on gov't centers

ILOILO CITY—Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines, welcomed the appointment of former Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario as head of the Office for New Government Center.

Treñas said Del Rosario has been proven to be competent in his years as a public official. Del Rosario served as governor for two terms from 1998 to 2004 and as representative of the province's third congressional district for three terms from 1987-1998.

He said the new office, which aims to facilitate the transfer of national offices of government agencies to the provinces, is among the "first step toward federalism."

But Treñas said no specific policies have been issued yet on how Del Rosario's office will coordinate with local government units where offices are set to be transferred.

Three departments are set to be transferred to the provinces. Among them is the Department of Agrarian Reform, which will be moved to Iloilo, the hometown of its head, Secretary Rene Villa, former presidential assistant for Western Visayas.

The others were the Departments of Agriculture (Davao) and Tourism (Cebu).

Treñas said they are studying the old Iloilo provincial capitol as the site of the DAR office.

The relocation of the departments, he added, would make government services more accessible to the people especially those outside of Metro Manila. *Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### 6 fishermen nabbed

CALATAGAN, Batangas—Police arrested six persons caught illegally fishing in the municipal water off Barangay Bagong Silang here. Caught in the act while using *bayate* (a poisonous substance mixed with small shrimps) were Joel Samonte, 25; Ernesto Dolor, 53; Jacinto Palo, 64; Romeo Johson, 43; Cesar Rodriguez, 51; and Marvin Magtibay, 22. The fishermen, who were placed in the custody of the Calatagan police, used two motor boats with markings Philippians 4" 19" and Cherry Ann, both with 16 horsepower engines, police said. *Arlene Javier Ona, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Village guard burns wife

LUCENA CITY—A village security volunteer in Barangay Pagsanhan, General Nakar, Quezon poured gasoline on his sleeping partner and lighted it after she allegedly turned down his request for sex. A police report said the suspect, Segundo Conchada, 40, arrived drunken in their house near midnight Friday and asked his partner, Marita, to have sex with him. The woman ignored him and continued to sleep in the bedroom with their two daughters. This angered the suspect. Neighbors rushed Marita and her two daughters to a hospital in Infanta for treatment of second-degree burns in different parts of their bodies. Conchada escaped. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### 23 teachers face raps

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Twenty-three public elementary schoolteachers in the city are facing administrative and criminal charges for alleged fraud in the May 10 elections. Lawyer Tim Bansig said Councilor Winococo Abraham and defeated candidates for councilor Dar Navarro, Ian Reyes and Rosa Bunagan Bansig filed the complaint at the Commission on Elections in Manila on May 26. They sued the teachers who served in the city's board of election inspectors after some ballots were invalidated. They claimed that some ballots were marked and votes were either padded or shaved. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Bus kills cop

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—A rookie policeman was killed after he was sideswiped by a passenger bus that ignored a police checkpoint on Maharlika Highway here on Sunday night. The body of PO1 Isagani Alanes, 24, was thrown 20 meters away from the highway because of the impact. His head and body were severely injured and he died instantly. Police said Alanes, who had just been assigned to the town police, was fixing the police checkpoint signage on the shoulder road when a speeding Florida Bus driven by Loreto Tejano hit him. The bus was returning to Cagayan with Girl Scouts and their teachers who came from an educational tour in Tagaytay City. Tejano fled but was caught by policemen 5 km from where the accident happened. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Con driver arrested

BAGUIO CITY—This taxi driver not only held up his passengers but after every holdup, he painted over his white Kia Pride and used a new name. After more than a month of surveillance, police finally caught up with Jone Somera Mina, 39, on Sept. 24. According to Senior Insp. Elmer Ragay, Baguio police intelligence and investigation unit chief, Mina also used different addresses and aliases to cover up his crimes. Ragay said seven of Mina's victims had identified him as the one who held them up. Mina's modus operandi was to veer from the victim's intended route and stop in a secluded spot, sometimes pretending that his taxi had a flat tire, Ragay said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Mayor admits gambling past

LUPON, Davao Oriental—Amid accusations that he is into the illegal gambling trade, this town's Mayor Arfran Quiñonez admitted that he used to be a financier of the popular illegal numbers game Last Two Digits.

"Yes, I admit I used to be engaged in illegal gambling trade. I used to be the financier of Last Two Digits in this town but I quit after getting back my position as mayor," Quiñonez told the INQUIRER.

Last Two Digits is the most popular illegal numbers game in Mindanao. Its winning combination is taken from the daily lotto draw of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

But Quiñonez's political opponents, most of them members of the municipal council, insist that the mayor is still "the biggest financier" of the numbers game in this town.

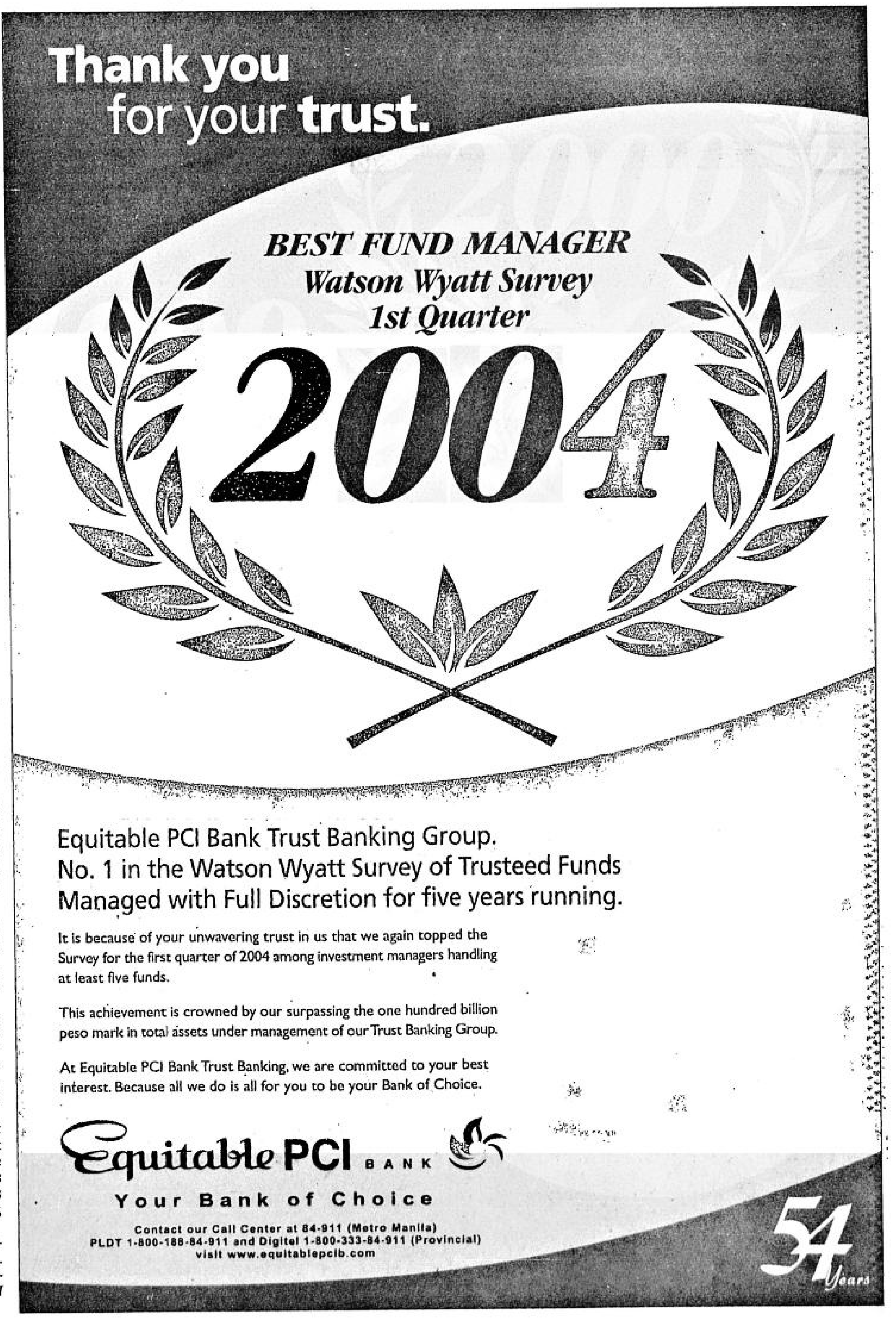
The mayor said the allegations were black propaganda "coming from my political opponents who could not accept defeat in the last elections."

"If they have evidence against me, I dare them to bring it to the proper authorities and not to the media," he added.

The mayor, however, sees nothing wrong with the illegal numbers game "because many people here are making a living out of it."

He insisted that Last Two Digits is not illegal because the winning numbers come from the results of the daily lotto draw, "which is legal."

"My political opponents are wrong . . .," he said. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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54 Years

# Suspected NPAs abduct, release trader in Quezon

CALAMBA CITY—Suspected members of the communist-led New People's Army based in Laguna freed a businessman after abducting him along a barangay road in Barangay Sta. Catalina, Candelaria, Quezon and holding him for about six hours on Sunday night.

Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera, Laguna police director, said Teodoro Unson, 50, was abducted by three armed men who identified themselves as NPA rebels while on a visit to his fishpond in Barangay San Lorenzo, San Pablo City, Laguna at around 4:20 p.m., Sunday.

Corvera said the suspects, armed with .45 cal. and .38 cal. pistols, ordered the victim at gunpoint to board a Toyota Hi-Lux pickup owned by Unson's brother-in-law and business partner Nelson Empalmado.

They sped off toward Quezon province.

The suspects, Corvera said, instructed Unson just to keep his head down.

About an hour later, the victim said two female rebels joined the group.

But Corvera said Unson might have been mistaken by the armed men for another person.

He said Empalmado, a lawyer who owns various fish pens in Lake Palakpakin, was the real target of the suspects.

The lawyer also owns a small company manufacturing jeepney units in San Pablo.

"Empalmado told us that the NPA rebels called him twice before to warn of his alleged loan shark activities. But he just ignored those warnings," Corvera said.

He said the suspects decided to let Unson go after they realized that they got the wrong person.

The alleged rebels abandoned the victim in a feeder road in Candelaria town.

A relative of the victim, who agreed to talk in anonymity, said that during the duration of the abduction, the suspects were "lecturing" him about the evils of "loan shark activities."

The suspects, the source said, also expressed their dismay over Empalmado's approach in dealing with small fishermen and jeepney drivers who fail to pay their debts on time.

The rebels said it was improper for Empalmado to just file criminal cases against those who were not able to pay him.

The rebels, the relative said, were relaying the complaint of fishermen in San Pablo against Empalmado and Unson.

The source said the abductors were talking constantly with Unson's family during the abduction.

"They even gave P100 to Unson for his fare. The abductors were really kind and seemed to be principled men. They told him not to be nervous and just cooperate with them," he added.

The source said the abductors told them that they would release Unson in the vicinity of Metropolis Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

However, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal denied that the NPA's Nilo Hatol Command was behind the abduction.

He said the rebel group never engaged in abduction to warn individuals.

"Ours is a principled organization. We do not abduct individuals, especially civilians, who are subject of complaints. The NPA would usually talk to them personally or send letters to warn them," he said in a phone interview.

Rosal likewise vowed to investigate the abduction of Unson.

He said the rebels would go after armed groups who are using the NPA for extortion. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

**EMBROIDERY CAPITAL**

RUDY ESPERAS PDI PHOTO

A resident of Lumban, Laguna puts finishing touches to a display of fine embroidery which has made the town famous.

# Gunmen attack Mindoro town mayor's house

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Six heavily armed men allegedly belonging to an anti-communist group attacked the house of Gloria town mayor Romeo Alvarez in Barangay Poblacion early morning Tuesday.

Gloria town, some 66 km south of Calapan City, was named after President Macapagal-Arroyo during the term of her father, then President Diosdado Macapagal.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Mimaropa police director, said at about 2:30 a.m., the suspects fired a grenade from an M-79 grenade-launcher that hit one of the two vehicles of Alvarez, which were parked inside his residence.

No one was hurt in the attack but it destroyed the mayor's Toyota Revo and damaged his Isuzu Trooper.

Lapinid said aside from the six bonnet-wearing suspects, residents in the area saw several other men who acted as lookouts and secured the vicinity.

The suspects, he said, fled on board three unidentified vehicles.

The group also left several documents identifying themselves as belonging to the anti-communist group Pilipino Ayaw sa Komunismo (Pako).

"The perpetrators immediately left the area . . . leaving behind documents about Pako . . . denouncing the mayor for his alleged involvement in illegal gambling and illegal drugs," Lapinid said in his report.

He said policemen from the provincial police office and the 204th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army were sent to set up checkpoints in Gloria and adjacent towns.

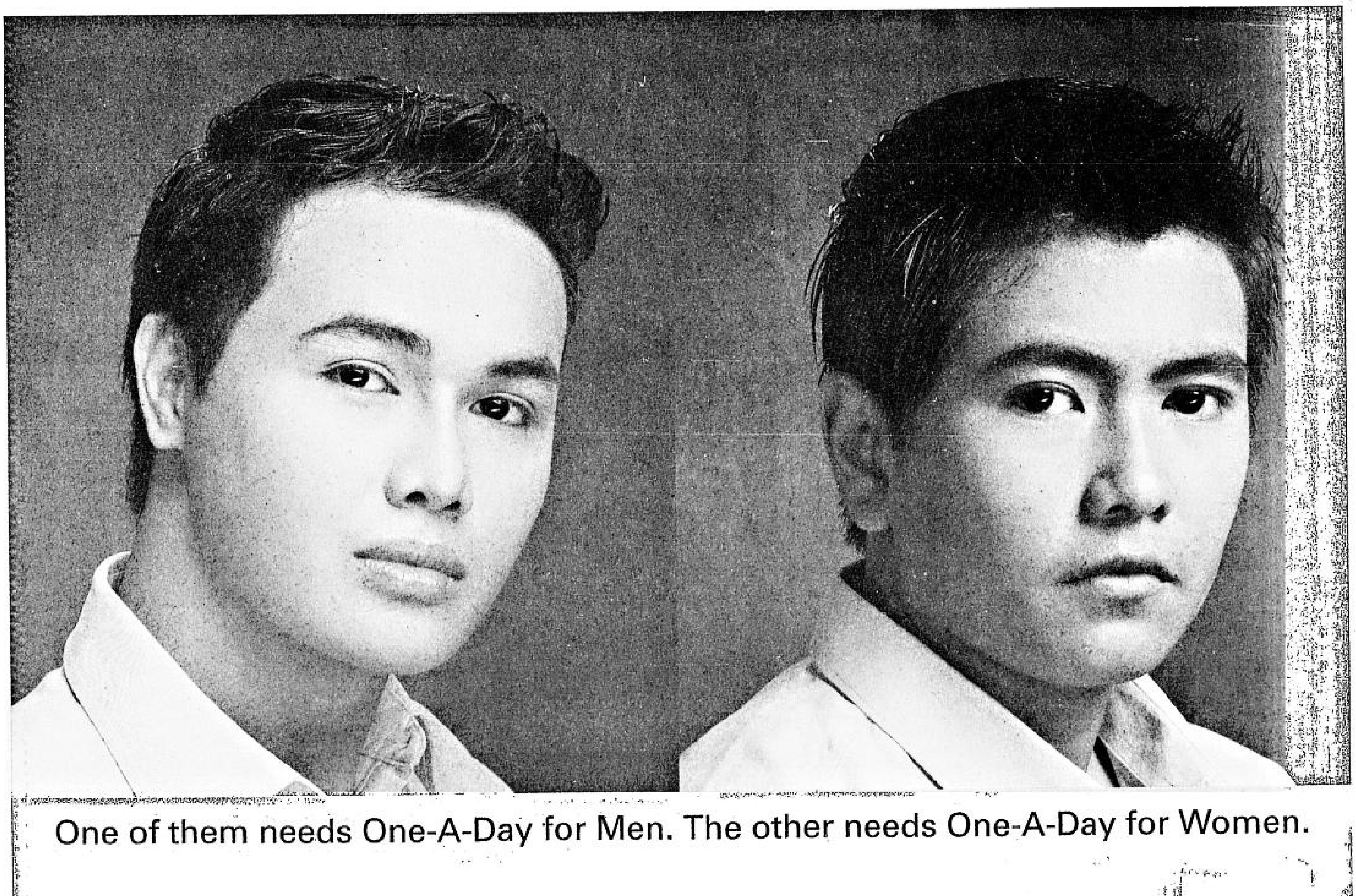
Reached through his mobile phone, Alvarez denied the accusations hurled against him. He declined to give other details of the attack.

"The investigation is still ongoing. But the people here in Gloria know that these are all false accusations," he told the INQUIRER.

Supt. Marcos Flores, Oriental Mindoro provincial police director, said Alvarez called him up at about 3 a.m. and reported the attack on his residence.

He quoted the mayor as saying he was at a loss on who could be behind the attack because he did not know he had enemies who would want him dead.

Flores said he immediately ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Scene of the Crime Operation unit and the Provincial Police Mobile Group to investigate the attack. *Marlon Ramos and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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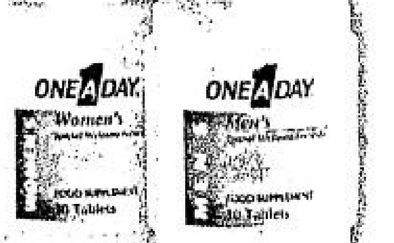

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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# 2-ton raisin bread gone in 10 minutes

**By Desiree Caluza and Donna Demetillo**
*Baguio City*

THE FAMOUS raisin bread of the 99-year-old Baguio Country Club, which is distributed only to its exclusive members, went public on Sept. 23 after a kilometer-long version was presented to residents and guests during a tourism festival in Baguio City.

At least 1,000 people lined up to taste the bread, which was consumed 10 minutes after it was unveiled at the Melvin Jones football grounds in Burnham Park.

The two-ton bread was the main feature of the opening of the city's First Annual Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Weekend.

A team of seven BCC bakers, led by pastry chef Arthur Nucaza, started assembling the bread, touted to be the longest and the first of its kind in the country, as early as 4 a.m. on Thursday. The team included 13 helpers and 30 students of hotel and restaurant management.

They used 110 sacks of bread flour, eight sacks of white sugar, 1,200 fresh eggs, 1,000 bars of butter, 200 cans of evaporated milk, 30 kg of instant yeast, 25 kg of cinnamon powder, and 1,000 kg of raisins.

## Longest bread

The Guinness Book of World Records has no entry for the longest raisin bread in the world. But it has a longest bread twist, measuring 11.94 meters, baked in Kielce, Poland, on June 20, 2001.

The longest sandwich is 722m long, made only last August in Kfar Qatra, a Lebanese village only 25 km from Beirut. It was made of 3,500 loaves of Lebanese village bread, 140 kilos of yogurt, 21,000 olives and 280 kilos of tomatoes, and cut into 14,260 pieces.

The Guinness website listed a 322.5m sandwich made in 1979 in New York and recognized as the longest torpedo or submarine sandwich.

Nucaza said the raisin bread was equivalent to 2,000 loaves and could serve at least 24,000 people.

"We do not know how many partook the bread because we could not control the crowd. It was difficult to count because we served it in an open field. But I am still glad that everybody was eating," he said.

## Eager eaters

Portions of the bread were given free to visitors and residents. Most of those who lined up to taste the bread were sidewalk vendors, students, employees and park visitors, but some broke the line and grabbed pieces.

Several people literally embraced loaves, many of them munching and grinning. "*Ganito pala ang lasa ng* raisin bread. *Masarap pala* (So, this is how a raisin bread tastes like. It tastes good)," a vendor said.

Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab, the guest during the event, said Baguio's "can-do attitude" in the time of financial crisis was commendable.

"That they are giving this away means that this is a labor of love," Palabyab said.

**A BAGUIO Country Club chef inspects the kilometer-long raisin bread at the Melvin Jones football grounds in Baguio City.** TOOTS SOBERANO

Malu Galiste, executive assistant manager of the BCC, said the club first served the raisin bread to its members in 1955.

The grandmother of Keith Reed, the BCC's American general manager then, baked the bread and offered it exclusively to members. The bread became popular in the 1960s and evolved as the trademark loaf of the club.

## Secret

Nucaza said the house recipe has remained a secret kept by the BCC's pastry chefs since the 1950s.

Like his predecessors, Nucaza said he signed a contract with the BCC management to keep the house recipe a secret.

"We always receive orders by the dozens from club members and tourists. This is an (exclusive) product of the country club but it is (now considered) a product of Baguio, so it is already (one of the city's) icons," Galiste said.

It was not the first time that Nucaza led a team of bakers to bake a giant pastry. In 2001, he and other pastry chefs of the BCC baked a giant carrot cake in La Trinidad, Benguet, which fed over 10,000 people.

Nucaza said his dream of creating giant pastries would not end with the raisin bread. "Someday, I would like to bake a giant apple pie and serve it at the Baguio Athletic Bowl, where many people can eat," he said.

*With a report from Frank Cimatu*

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# At 91, she's the oldest serving barangay chair

**By Frank Cimatu**
*Baguio City*

AT THE Kagitingan Barangay Hall on Rajah Soliman Street in Baguio City, a sign read: "Happy 90th Birthday! Maria Cordoviz. Kagitingan Barangay Captain."

**MARIA Cordoviz** TOOTS SOBERANO

Cordoviz just laughed at the sign. "I don't need to lie about my age anymore. I'm already 91," she said in Ilocano.

She may not only be the oldest barangay leader in the country but also the oldest serving.

Lucid and feisty as ever, Cordoviz said she welcomed the idea of postponing the barangay elections so she could serve even longer.

She may be less than five feet tall, with her patented curly white locks, but her constituents have never thought of disobeying her orders.

"All my councilors are expected to sweep the streets in their zones. One of the councilors refused to sweep and even urinated on the street. I told my *tanod* (watchmen) to bar him from entering his house for three days. They did and the councilor now cleans his area," she said.

**HOMETOWN** *Snapshot*

She was appointed *teniente del barrio* of her area in 1962 and has been serving as barangay captain since.

Cordoviz holds the distinction of being the first settler in Kagitingan. She is the first resident after World War II to stake her claim in the village, back when it was still a hill.

Now, Kagitingan is a very busy barangay, being the terminal area for buses going to interior Cordillera and jeepneys going to the region's mine sites.

## 'Kapitana'

Everybody in Baguio, from the *komboy* (baggage haulers) to the vendors of chicken for *pinikpikan*, knows who "Kapitana" is and everybody greeted her during her birthday.

"If there is one thing you can describe 'Mommy,' it is her willingness to serve at all times," said Mila Angiwan, a server in one of the *carinderia* (eateries).

Cordoviz was born in Itogon, Benguet, on Sept. 21, 1913, the daughter of a *capataz* (highway project supervisor) and a sweets vendor.

She attended the Baguio Central School. When she was 13, she was already an orphan who took care of her four younger siblings.

"I remembered what my teacher in Grade 4, Lilian Eckhard, a missionary from Hong Kong, told me. 'There is an answer to everything you do. If you do good, you will reap goodness.' I never forgot that," she said.

She continued her studies at the Mountain Province High School (now the Baguio City National High School) and worked at the Cine Real as the phonograph player for the silent movies and the intermission after the feature.

She learned to repair the projector and to knit in the dark. She sold whatever she knitted to feed her younger siblings. Three of her four siblings finished college.

Cordoviz also graduated from high school, with Leonora San Agustin, curator of the Baguio-Mt. Province Museum, and former Baguio Mayor Virginia Oteyza de Guia as classmates.

Cordoviz married Jose Cordoviz, her co-employee at the movie house, after graduation. The couple has 10 children. Six of her children have migrated to Canada.

Like former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Cordoviz is most effective during times of adversity.

During the rice crisis in the 1970s, she distributed rice to her constituents at a much lower cost. During the four fires that hit the Baguio City market, she organized her men to secure the shops and houses and helped put out the fires up to the early morning.

During the 1990 earthquake, she gave out seven cavans of rice to whoever needed it.

"People always ask me about my secret to long life. I eat a lot of vegetables and sometimes drink 10 glasses of water. But my secret is that every service I deliver adds years to my life," she said.

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| 01-30 | SingArt - A Brush with Lions |
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| 01-30 | Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best |
| 01-30 | Tan Swie Hian |
| 01-05 | 4th International Guitar Festival 2004 |
| 01-12 | VOLUNTEER A DAY, VOLUNTEER WITH KINDNESS |
| 01-13 | Festival of the Hungry Ghosts |
| 03-04 | The Merry Widow |
| 06-12 | Cheers Asian Satellite Badminton Tournament |
| 10 | Singapore Hit Awards 2004 |
| 10-11 | An Evening of Huang Mei Opera Tunes |
| 11 | Jeff Chang & Sky Wu Concert 2004 |
| 12 | Comedy for U |
| 16-30 | Sing Song |
| 17-26 | Jewellery Time 2004 |
| 17-18 | Fei Yu Qing Charity Concert & World Tour 2004 |
| 17-18 | Russian Rousers |
| 18-19 | UIM F1 Powerboat World Championship |
| 21-30 | MAMMA MIA! |
| 25 | Lestari Seni - Tunas Warisan |
| 25-26 | 12th SCC International Hockey Tournament |
| 26 | Sheares Bridge Run & Army Half Marathon 2004 |

**OCTOBER**

| | |
|---|---|
| 01-31 | Singapore JewelFest 2004: Flights of Desire |
| 01-31 | Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists |
| 01-31 | Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best |
| 01-31 | MAMMA MIA! |
| 01-31 | Tan Swie Hian |
| 01-03 | Sing Song |
| 05-07 | Alvin Alley American Dance Theater |
| 09-31 | Hari Raya Light-Up |
| 14-22 | Navarathiri Festival |
| 14-31 | Pilgrimage to Kusu Island |
| 15-31 | Deepavali Light-Up 2004 |
| 24 | Action Asia Challenge |

**NOVEMBER**

| | |
|---|---|
| 01-30 | Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists |
| 01-30 | Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best |
| 01-30 | MAMMA MIA! |
| 01-11 | Pilgrimage to Kusu Island |
| 01-14 | Deepavali Light-Up 2004 |
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# Peso fall plunges RP deeper into debt trap

From page A1

BONCODIN: P5.9-trillion public sector debt

ANDAYA: Evident vulnerability of the peso.

the management," Ms Arroyo said in an interview at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

Warning of stiff penalties against currency speculators, Ms Arroyo said her goal was to see an upbeat economy so that the exchange rate could return to the P50 to the dollar level.

The BSP expects the peso to recover and stabilize during the fourth quarter of the year in the range of 54-56 to the dollar, broadly in line with the government's expectations.

"The peso's positive outlook during the remainder of the year hinges in part on the uptrend in remittance flows from overseas Filipino workers and export receipts, which are projected to grow by 6 percent and 10 percent in 2004, respectively," BSP officer-in-charge Armando Suratos said in a statement.

The BSP was seen selling dollars in the currency market yesterday to keep the peso from falling beyond its all-time low, dealers said.

"We've not seen, so far, major demand for dollars as strong as (Monday) but we're not ruling out a further slide in the peso," a currency trader said.

## Interest payments

If the peso hits the P57 to the dollar level, national government (NG) interest payments would increase from P301.7 billion to P303.3 billion in 2005, Andaya said.

At the same time, principal debt amortization would increase from P344.2 billion to P346.5 billion.

"Thus, total debt service in 2005 will jump from P645.8 billion to P649.7 billion, or an increase of P3.9 billion," Andaya said.

Andaya said fluctuations in the exchange rate would pad the NG debt stock from its June 2004 level of P3.537 trillion to P3.567 trillion, representing an increase of P30 billion.

Because of the high level of the government's indebtedness, "any peso depreciation will trigger more government borrowings or reduction in its expenditures, or both," Andaya said.

"In budgeting, peso volatility is the expected typhoon that demolishes spending plans and lays to waste the ideal fiscal landscape the government tries to create at the beginning of every year," Andaya said.

Foreign exchange fluctuations have a negative impact on the government's debt obligations, according to Andaya.

"Of the P2.01-trillion increase in the NG debt stock from 1997 to 2003, P377.5 billion was attributable to peso depreciation," he said.

Andaya said the vulnerability of the peso was again evident this year when the original programmed interest payments jumped from P271.5 billion to P301.7 billion.

## Worrisome

In the Senate, Sen. Mar Roxas II said the weakening of the peso was "worrisome" not only because of the foreign currency-denominated debt, but also because the country was importing most of its major raw materials such as oil, steel and wheat.

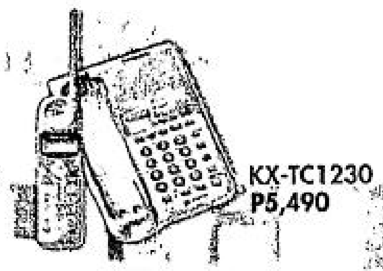
He said he did not see the need for the BSP to intervene in the currency market.

"Any intervention by the BSP would lead to the evaporation of its gross international reserves," Roxas said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan downplayed the impact of the peso depreciation. He said the depreciation was caused by legitimate demand for dollars.

He asked the public to remain calm to avoid a negative chain reaction. "Some of the causes of the peso decline are external. Be assured that the House of Representatives and the Senate are working to come up with the right mix of revenue-generating measures in addition to probing for ways to minimize expenses to correct our budget deficit," he said.

*With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. Doris Dumlao, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and AFP*



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# Oil hits $50.47 per barrel

From page A1

slowdown.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said fuel prices in the Philippines would remain high in the coming months. "We have to live with the fact that gasoline and diesel product (prices) will remain high in the near future," he said at a press briefing.

Economists said the impact of soaring crude prices would also be felt in the rising prices across the board—consumer goods, transport costs and electricity charges. There will also be implications for local currencies as high oil prices traditionally prompt crude importers to soak up US dollars to pay for their imports.

Oil spiked despite assurances from the president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) that producing nations were seeking ways to calm markets after an announcement that the cartel would boost production by 1 million barrels a day failed to move the price lower.

Much of Opec's additional crude is heavier and higher in sulphur content, which needs greater processing into premium oil products such as gasoline. But Nigeria's crude is lighter and much easier for refiners to process.

## Evacuation

Royal Dutch/Shell group, Nigeria's top oil producer, has evacuated 235 nonessential staff and has cut 30,000 to 40,000 bpd of output due to security curbs in the southern delta.

The Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force released a communique late on Monday accusing Shell and Italy's Agip, a unit of ENI, of collaboration and warning that anyone assisting the state would be considered an enemy. Last year's uprising by members of the Ijaw tribe forced the temporary closure of 40 percent of the country's output.

Nigerian unions also served a 14-day ultimatum to the government on Monday to reverse a 15-percent fuel price hike or face an indefinite nationwide strike.

"The latest spark was the reported increase in fighting in Nigeria," said ANZ Bank energy analyst Daniel Hynes from Melbourne, Australia. "But Ivan certainly paved the way for the latest surge."

The United States has lost more than 11 million barrels of oil production in the past two weeks, according to US government data, with Gulf of Mexico output still down nearly 500,000 barrels a day following the devastation brought by Ivan.

Although oil is at an all-time high, prices are not at record levels when inflation is taken into account. Adjusting for inflation, today's prices are still more than $30 below the level reached in 1981 after the Iranian revolution.

## Panic buying

That hasn't eased the fears gripping the market, however.

"There is a lot of fundamental, panic buying by the end users," said oil strategist Ng Weng Hoong at Energyasia.com in Singapore, adding that he believed the price would still go higher.

"When they cracked $50, now there is a trigger for $60. It broke the barrier, it's going to reach the next target," he said.

With global oil demand at roughly 82 million barrels a day, analysts say the amount of excess oil production available is only about one percent, leaving the industry a slim margin for error in the event of a prolonged supply interruption.

Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro yesterday said that producers were trying to bring prices down, but the group thought supply was not the problem because it had at least 1.5 million bpd of spare capacity.

"Can we really trust any of these guys?" asked Ng. "If I repeatedly get bad news from you, I am just going to keep on buying," he said, adding there has been no fresh signs that key producers have additional oil to cope with rising global demand.

"There are 10 to 12 structural factors driving the market, the latest factor is panic and fear," added Ng.

## Below normal

On Monday, the US Minerals Management Service reported that daily oil production in the Gulf of Mexico was 29 percent below normal at about 1.2 million barrels per day.

Eleven million barrels of oil, or 1.9 percent of annual production in the Gulf of Mexico, have been lost since Sept. 13, when offshore producers began evacuating crews and shutting down production ahead of Ivan's arrival.

In Iraq, fighting between US-led forces and rebels has shown no sign of letting up ahead of the country's elections in January.

Also Tuesday, heating oil futures breached $1.38 per gallon, reflecting supply concerns ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter.

"There are already signs of a cold, cold (Northern Hemisphere) winter so that's going to add to more fears. The stockpiling is just going to increase," Ng said.

German Finance Minister Hans Eichel warned ahead of Friday's Group of Seven meeting in Washington that global growth would be at risk if oil prices remained at current levels.

"There will certainly be an effect on growth if such a high oil price is sustained," Eichel said in an interview on Monday.

## Drag in growth

The impact of the new surge in oil prices will depend on how long prices will stay at those levels, economists said, adding that any effect would most likely be reflected in next year's economic numbers.

"It would likely be a drag in economic growth in most places," said David Cohen, an economist with research house Action Economics.

**AN INSPECTION** tour of gasoline stations in Metro Manila is being conducted by energy officials including Secretary Vince Perez to check out reports that some dealers were diluting petroleum products or underfilling gas tanks.

REUTERS

While the region's oil-producing nations like Indonesia and Malaysia will benefit in the short term, the rest of Asia is dependent on imported fuel and are likely to feel the pinch more, he said.

Andy Xie, Morgan Stanley's chief economist for the Asia-Pacific, said each dollar increase in the oil price would reduce the economic growth rate in East Asia excluding Japan by 0.1 percentage point directly and possibly another 0.1 percentage point through a drop in export demand.

South Korea and Thailand are twice as sensitive to oil as the region as a whole, he said.

"Most countries would feel the heat of the high oil prices as a drain on the pocket books of consumers and businesses," Cohen said. "It's a form of tax that drains spending power."

Cohen said the threat of higher inflation would put pressure on central banks on whether to further raise interest rates.

"The main impact is that high oil prices are robbing purchasing power from consumers and businesses. Like any other form of tax, it would tend to slow demand," Cohen said. *Reports from AP, AFP, Reuters and Abigail L. Ho*

# 'Bulldog' . . .

From page A1

tended to deter mobile phone theft—now a rampant crime in the Philippines.

Once activated, the program, known as Bulldog, requires the user to supply a numerical password either through the cell phone's keypad or through a text message before the phone can be used.

If the correct password is not provided after three tries, the program locks the keypad and the phone begins emitting a "barking" sound.

"The annoying sound created by the cell phone is enough to grab the attention of other people nearby, and scare off cell phone thieves," says Jayree Chua, president of the software start-up Boogs (www.boogs.ph).

Chua says the program may be activated remotely via text messaging, when a phone has been idle for a set period of time, or when the phone's Subscriber Identification Module or SIM is replaced by a possible thief.

While Bulldog—which will be sold for about P350—is not foolproof, it will at least discourage cell phone theft, he says.

## IMEI

Boogs is working on enabling Bulldog to send a text message containing a phone's IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) code to a central database once it detects that a new SIM has been inserted.

The IMEI is a 15-digit code assigned to each mobile phone. Networks can block the use of a phone that has been reported stolen on the basis of its IMEI.

"If we can get the cooperation of the mobile phone networks and the National Telecommunications Commission, we can set up Bulldog as an automated reporting system for blocking stolen handsets," Chua says.

Boogs is also working on having Bulldog send out an alert if the phone's IMEI code is tampered with.

Chua says Bulldog is in beta testing and works on phones that use the Symbian Series 60 platform—an operating system usually found in the latest Nokia handsets and high-end models of Sendo, Samsung, Panasonic and Sony Ericsson.

Users who forget their Bulldog password can call Boogs.

After verifying the user's identity, the company will send a text message to the user's phone, which will deactivate Bulldog and erase the program from the phone. The user will then have to buy another copy of the program.

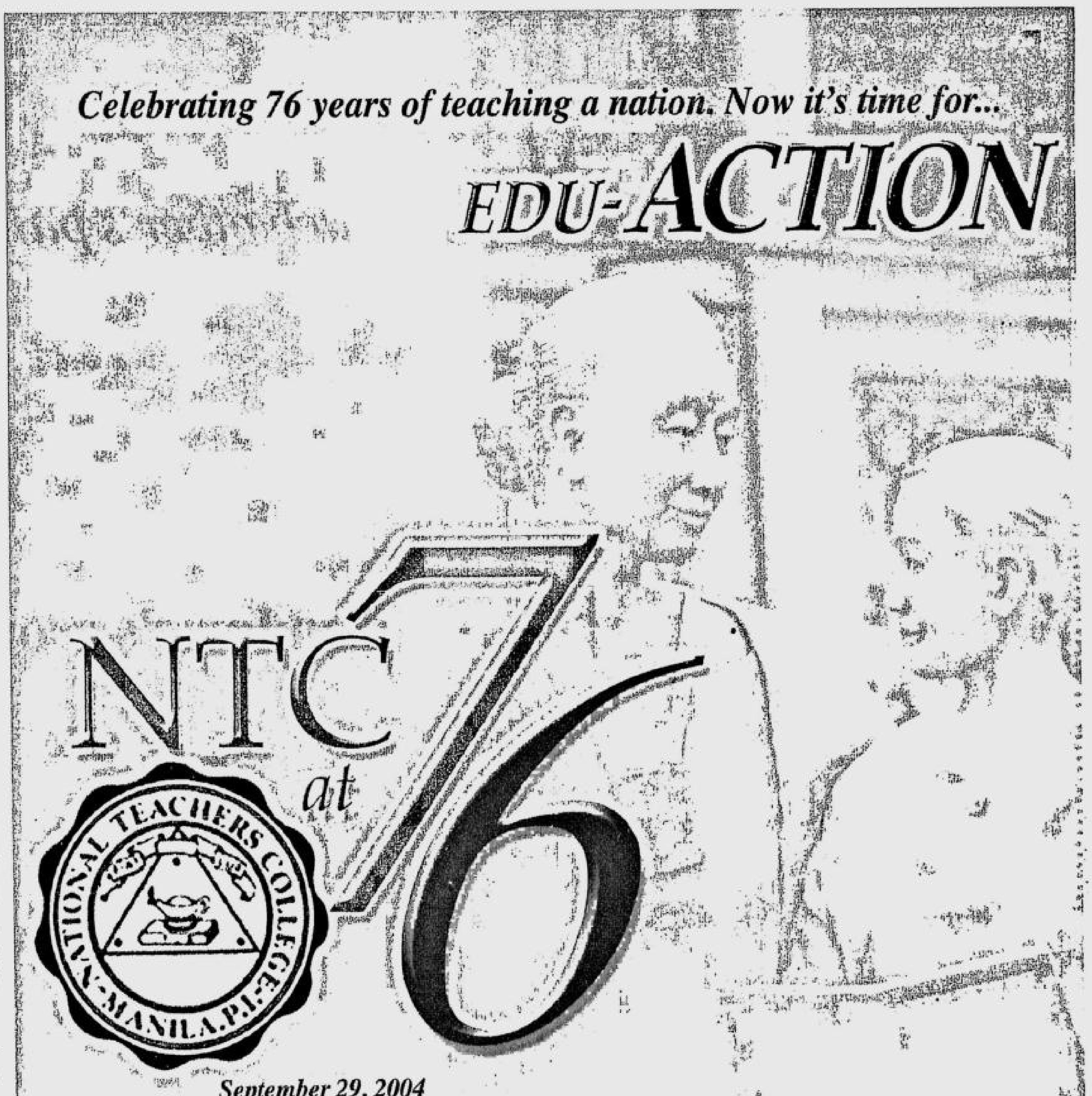
## Underrated

Cell phone theft is a growing problem although the crime tends to be underreported.

Just last week, two journalists were killed by cell phone thieves on separate occasions.

Jose Villanueva, assistant business editor of Today, was stabbed to death early Friday morning after refusing to surrender his cell phone to three holdup men who boarded the bus he was riding on his way home.

Newsreader Chris Misajon of GMA Network station GMA TV 6 in Iloilo died on Saturday, two days after he was shot by holdup men who took his money and cell phone.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# New Subic head made 'billionaires of Ayalas'

From page A1

"I wanted to get the best manager in the whole country."

Ms Arroyo said that with Licuanan making "billionaires of the Ayalas," he could make "the best hub out of Clark and Subic."

She pointed out that the Ayalas gave Licuanan a "free hand" in running their corporations. In the same way, she said, he would also have a free hand in running Clark and Subic.

Clark and Subic, located in Pampanga and Zambales, respectively, were the biggest military facilities outside of the US mainland until 1991. Their development is part of Ms Arroyo's 10-point agenda.

Asked by the INQUIRER whether she had a hard time convincing Licuanan to join her administration, the President laughed heartily and stammered a response.

When Licuanan said "No," she said: "He said no. Thank God. Thank God. Thank God."

**HELLO and goodbye: Outgoing SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo welcomes President Arroyo during the Neda meeting in Clark on Tuesday.** MALACANANG PHOTO

## Nonexecutive post

Later in an interview, Licuanan said his chairmanship of the SBMA would be a "nonexecutive position" similar to that of Clark Development Corp. chair Rizalino Navarro. "I'm focused on coordination," he said.

He will chart the "master direction" of the two former US bases, Ms Arroyo said.

Licuanan was named presidential adviser on the Subic-Clark Alliance development program on Aug. 18, but his office was created only on Monday through Executive Order No. 365.

Payumo, whose term should have ended on July 1 but was extended by the President until Oct. 15, met with SBMA officials and employees on Monday.

He did not name his successor but promised a "proper and peaceful" leadership transition.

"There should be no reason for worries," he said, adding:

"I do not think that the institution can stand another turbulence" similar to that which accompanied his replacement of then Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon, the first SBMA chair, in June 1998.

Gordon, now a senator, held out at the SBMA with his followers for days after President Joseph Estrada appointed Payumo to replace him.

Payumo, a former congressman of Bataan, assured SBMA officials and employees that he knew his successor well and the latter would be "professional" in handling the job.

He said his successor would "inherit an organization that I'm truly proud of."

He also praised Ms Arroyo for appointing someone from "no one's political camp."

## Other appointments

The President also named the new head of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, of which the SBMA is a subsidiary.

Filodelfo S. Rojas Jr., former president and chair of the John Hay and Poro Point Development, was appointed BCDA chair to replace Florencio Padernal. Rufo Colayco remains BCDA president and chief executive officer.

Ms Arroyo likewise appointed Alfredo Antonio as SBMA administrator, and Gen. Jose Calimlim, former commander of the Presidential Security Group, as board member and president of Subic Freeport Services Corp.

She issued an executive order on Aug. 4 splitting the position of SBMA chair and administrator, a dual post that Payumo occupied under the SBMA charter.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Antonio would serve as acting SBMA chair when Payumo's term ends on Oct. 15.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita released the names of the new appointees during the President's visit to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at Clark, where she laid the capsule for the P2-billion airport extension project and later met with the Cabinet group of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The capsule-laying ceremony was held in time for the 94th birth anniversary of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, Ms Arroyo's father.

## Mission

EO 365 states that:

- Licuanan will oversee the functions of the BCDA, Clark Development Corp. and SBMA with regard to programs that have a direct impact on the joint development of the industrial and freeport agencies.
- The three agencies will provide "the required financial, administrative and technical support [to Licuanan] in the efficient and effective discharge of his functions."
- Licuanan will "obtain the participation of strategic partners, domestic or foreign, from the public or private sector, to contribute capital, know-how as well as market linkages necessary to spur the development of Central Luzon."

## Like Dubai and HK

- He is authorized to seek the assistance of all government agencies and local government units to achieve his mission.

Ms Arroyo clarified in an interview that it was not Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus but Licuanan whom she had picked to chair the SBMA.

Lapus, as chair of the House committee on ways and means, will do "big tasks" in the legislature, she said.

Asked what role the development of Subic and Clark would have in bailing the country out of the fiscal crisis, the President said: "If it becomes the best hub in Southeast Asia, it's going to be like Dubai and Hong Kong."

She said Subic and Clark were "more than Calabarzon," referring to the development grid in five Southern Luzon provinces.

With Licuanan's appointment, the appeal of Zambales officials to appoint a native of the province to the SBMA went unheeded.

Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II said the appeal was expressed through a resolution filed early this month.

Among those who were suggested for the top SBMA post were banker-community development worker Philip Camara and former Zambales Gov. Amor Deloso.

### IN THE KNOW

- The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is in charge of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, an industrial/commercial complex in Zambales.
- The former site of the US Subic Naval Base, it was turned into an eco-zone a year after the Senate rejected in 1991 the extension of the RP-US military bases treaty.
- Land area: 18,000 hectares (including forest area).
- Workforce: 69,189.
- Exports amounted to $454 million as of July.
- Top exports: electronic products (computers, fax machines, etc.), processed foods, high-end garments and jewelry.
- Industries: infrastructure and property development (hotels, commercial centers, etc.), manufacturing (electronics, semiconductors, etc.) and services (transportation, tourism, etc.).

*PDI Research*

# Textbook whistle-blower to DECS: Say sorry first, then we'll talk

From page A1

had tried to sell his 82-page list of corrections to the publishing company.

"I'm not doing this for the money," Go insisted. "In fact I'm the one spending money." On Sept. 20, he placed a newspaper ad announcing his findings.

DepEd said it would review the textbook, with Go's help. The crusader said he was demanding the apology as a condition, not because he was being high-handed but because he had to set "limits."

During Monday's press conference, Abad distributed copies of the letter he had written to Go, asking him to coordinate with Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo and the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, which is in charge of textbook evaluation.

But in the letter, Abad said Go should not have brought the case straight to the media. "He's inviting me, but at the same time he's castigating me," Go pointed out, adding that he received his own copy of the letter via fax.

He doesn't believe the DepEd really welcomes his help: "I'm willing to sit down with them, but if they [are set to] just refute my findings one by one, what's the use? If 'you're being willfully blind, I can't open your eyes."

Go said he wanted nothing from the education officials. But he wondered why the "authors, publisher and evaluators" of the textbook in question had not been taken to task for the errors.

Three of the authors (the fourth is deceased) have dismissed the listed mistakes as "manufactured or fabricated." But even Abad admitted that after a cursory review, officials found one "major mistake."

The DepEd has ruled out the possibility of recalling all 1.14 million copies of the book from 5,000 schools, saying it would rather issue "teaching notes" containing the corrections.

A few years back, the DepEd disapproved a high school science textbook that it had approved the previous year.

Go said he had also pointed out the errors in that book, "Science and Technology for the Modern World," but that its publisher was not penalized, either.

# *Two widows share each other's pain*

**By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr. and Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

SHE HAD been there.

More than a year ago, Gloria Kintanar lost her husband to assassins, who remain at large up to now.

The other night, the widow of former New People's Army chief Romulo "Ka Rolly" Kintanar was among the first visitors at the wake of Arturo Tabara, another former rebel leader who was assassinated in Quezon City on Sunday night.

Most of the time, Gloria was beside Tabara's wife, Veronica.

She knew the pain.

They knew each other's pain.

"It is so frustrating. It's so sad that this had to happen," Gloria told reporters.

Her husband was killed on Jan. 23, 2003 inside a restaurant at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. The Communist Party of the Philippines owned up to the killing.

## Reason for shedding blood

"We have to be strong and pray for each other and for our country, which is the reason why we are shedding blood," Gloria said in Filipino.

Tabara was accompanying Ong, the 19-year-old boyfriend of his youngest daughter, to buy a plane ticket at SM Fairview that Sunday night. They had just parked their car when they were shot dead.

Veronica was with them, but she escaped death because the two had dropped her off at the mall's entrance before parking the car.

Tabara's youngest daughter, Rosa Aurora, Ong's girlfriend, just gave birth last week. Her baby will grow up without a father—like her.

## War not the right path

Veronica said her husband had been included in the CPP-NPA order of battle, which meant he would be punished with death.

She said her husband used to have security escorts, but could not keep them because of his limited resources.

A few years ago, the couple decided to continue their struggle through peaceful means.

Veronica said she and her husband realized that the "(CPP-NPA) war was not the right path to social justice. Our people need and want peace."

## Death foretold

"I wish the killers of my husband will go into deep self-examination of why they commit senseless killings if they are truly fighting for social justice for the poor," she said.

Veronica said her husband's killers should look into their hearts and examine if killing people like Arturo would advance the cause of the poor, or was just an attempt to show that they were powerful.

Aside from Rosa Aurora, the Tabara couple had three other children—Ana Luisa, 30; Efren Joseph, 28, and Fe Esperanza Caridad, 23.

Veronica said she knew that Arturo had long been on the NPA hit list for bolting the CPP-NPA in 1992.

Even Arturo had premonitions that he would be killed, she said.

Arturo had told Veronica that he would be killed next after Daniel Batoy, a breakaway rebel commander in Western Visayas, was ambushed by the NPA on Aug. 22.

# Comrades pin Tabara's killing on Joma's group

From page A1

keeps a very short list. With Tabara dead, that should be shorter now," said a Tabara comrade, who claimed to be on Sison's "hate list."

## Who's who

Sison's list allegedly includes Nilo de la Cruz, a former leader of the urban assassination group Alex Boncayao Brigade, and former communist leaders Benjie de Vera, Ric Reyes and Joel Rocamora.

The INQUIRER saw none of them at the wake on Monday night.

Also on the supposed list were Filemon Lagman and Kintanar, who were killed in February 2001 and January 2003, respectively.

## Mutual hatred

The so-called "hate list" also supposedly contains the names of former comrades who had questioned some of Sison's pronouncements, according to the comrade who said he was on the list.

The feeling of hatred, apparently, was mutual.

## A new 'frat'?

"The problem here is you can violate the rules but for as long as you profess obedience to Joma, you are OK," the comrade said.

He cited the case of Jose "Pepe" Luneta, a senior communist leader who was allegedly responsible for the bloody purge of party members in Southern Tagalog in the 1980s.

"(Luneta) remains in the good graces of the party because he is now the loyal servant boy of Joma [who lives in exile in the Netherlands]," he said. "He is the one who prepares Joma's coffee."

When somebody said Sison had been described by novelist Ninotchka Rosca as an "alpha male," not a few of the CPP founder's rejectionists chuckled.

"Is that a new fraternity?" one said.

Tabara lay in a cream coffin amid red and white blossoms next to the casket bearing the remains of Stephen Ong, 19, the boyfriend of his daughter. Ong was shot dead along with Tabara by a still unidentified gunman, or gunmen.

They were killed at a time when Sison's CPP is pressing for the removal of the party from Washington's list of international terrorist groups.

## Macabre reunions

An ex-CPP member turned peace advocate said he would not blame his former comrades if they shied away from Tabara's wake.

"This kind of reunion only makes us angry and frustrated. What if they and Joma held reunions like this?" he said.

"What if we also ask Joma to delist some people? After all, he also wants to be delisted from the US list of terrorist groups," the man said. "He is practicing a double standard. He resorts to international human rights law only when he wants to, and if it favors him."

Tabara's wake was the third such reunion among former CPP members, after those for Lagman and Kintanar.

## A bad signal

Another Tabara ally, Daniel "Ka Mokong" Batoy, and his daughter, Perla Jane, were also shot dead by the NPA in Makato, Aklan, last month.

Kintanar's widow, Joy, joined about a dozen former political detainees and former underground activists in comforting Tabara's widow, Veronica, at the Imperial Chapel of Funeraria Paz on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Peace Commissioner Ging Delez, UP President Dodong Nemenzo and his wife Princess, and Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa were to join them later in the night.

Villa said the killing of Tabara would scare away the insurgents that the government was trying to entice back to the fold of the law.

"This is a bad signal to those who would want to join the mainstream of society," Villa said.

## Trained assassins

Villa said he met Tabara while working on the implementing guidelines for the peace agreement that Tabara's group had signed with the government in 2001.

Asked for comment on the statement of a senior police official that Tabara was killed by the same group that gunned down Kintanar, police Intelligence Director Robert Delfin said on the phone: "It's the same group. We've been hunting these people since they killed Kintanar."

Delfin, whose long career in intelligence work has focused heavily on the communist insurgency, said authorities identified the alleged killers with the help of intelligence reports, a good number of which came from former and active CPP members.

Composed of 10 to 15 highly trained killers, including at least one woman, the SOG is headed by Prudencio Calubid, a member of the CPP Central Committee, said the senior police official, who asked not to be identified.

## Tabara warned

He said the group "retreated to the outskirts of Metro Manila" after it gunned down Tabara and Ong.

Like Kintanar, the 53-year-old Tabara was killed as punishment for his decision to break away from the CPP in 1992, the official said.

After the break, Tabara established the Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Manggagawa-Pilipinas.

Delfin said that three months ago, the PNP had warned Tabara about an impending attempt on his life.

"He was told to double his security because the hit squad was coming after him," he said.

Delfin said the SOG hit list also included RPM-P leader De la Cruz, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay, Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, a prominent businessman and Delfin himself.

## Trailing Aglipay

Aglipay had allegedly been on the list since he headed the National Capital Region Police Office more than three years ago. Once, a team of hit men reportedly followed him during a visit to Taguig.

The liquidation squad almost got the businessman during a recent party hosted by the Asistio political clan in Caloocan City, the PNP intelligence director said.

"Hit men were already in the area but somehow they postponed the kill," he said. "Anyway, he's been warned."

Delfin said he and Mendoza were similarly "set up" during last month's gun show at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

"We learned that two teams (of assassins) had been deployed in the area," he said. "Good thing we didn't show up."

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# QC declares war on e-casinos

**By Tina G. Santos**

TO SHOW that he means business, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte yesterday ordered the closure of three more e-casino outlets reportedly operating in the guise of Internet and computer gaming cafes in the city.

Last month, the city government had padlocked four computer facilities allegedly maintained and operated by the Sports and Games Entertainment Corporation (SAGE) for operating without the necessary permit and license in violation of city ordinances.

Complaints from concerned parents who said their children had been frequenting computer arcades had also reached Belmonte's office.

### Seven down

The new closure order brought to seven the total number of e-casino outlets that had been closed by the city government since it intensified its campaign to stop the prolif eration of Internet gambling in the city.

The latest outlets padlocked yesterday were Phil. Web Corporation, located in Quezon Avenue, Barangay Sta. Cruz, and two Running Mate Inc. venues located in Kamias and at the Intrepid Plaza Building on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Barangay Bagumbayan.

Pacifico Maghacot, chief of the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office, led operatives of the Central Police District-City Hall station in the closure operations against the erring establishments.

### Misrepresentation

Maghacot said the e-casinos misrepresented themselves by applying for a business permit as Internet and computer gaming cafes.

"What the city government is doing right now is safeguarding public morals," Maghacot said.

He also vowed to intensify Belmonte's drive against illegal casino gambling operations in the city. The four computer facilities previously padlocked by the city government reportedly maintained and operated by SAGE were outlets located at Robinson's Galleria in Ugong Norte, Barangay Bagumbayan; Odie Building along Congressional Avenue; RCBC Building along Quezon Avenue; and at Center Building along E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue Extension.

Parents and school authorities had earlier raised concerns about sports betting in outlets close to campuses in Metro Manila.

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**LETTING** their hair down, students from the Far Eastern University rally against a new school policy that would prevent them from growing their locks long or sporting "outlandish" hairdos. ERIK ARAZAS

# Students protest policy on long hair

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

LEAVE our hair alone.

With this battle cry, around 50 students of the Far Eastern University yesterday held a rally to protest a new school policy to be implemented on Oct. 1 that would prevent male students from wearing their hair long, and both male and female students from sporting "outlandish" hair styles.

The students who joined the rally were mostly fine arts majors and members of the third sex who had long hair.

Members of the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan, Sanlakas Youth and students from the University of the Philippines-Manila joined the protesters.

Pol Sena, an FEU student and Sandigan Party Alliance spokesperson, said the policy that the school would be implementing is "repressive."

"The way we wear our hair is a fashion statement. And our fashion choices do not affect our intellectual capacity," Sena said.

He added that the school officials should rethink the school's policies considering the changing times.

Sena said the youth also use fashion as a form of self-expression.

The student gave reporters a copy of the list of the impending policies the school was reportedly set to implement.

The announcement regarding the new policy was signed by FEU student affairs chief Adelaida Fronda and chief discipline officer Perfecto Pascual.

It showed that effective Oct. 1, male students would be banned from wearing earrings and from sporting hair that extends past the earlobe or below the eyebrows. All students were also banned from sporting "outlandish" hairstyles.

Sena also pointed out yesterday that the term "outlandish" was vague, and the school officials did not provide an exact definition of the word. "Who's to say what they would consider outlandish?" he added.

Instead of focusing their energies on the students' form of individual expression, FEU officials should instead focus on problems like the lack of classrooms, said Sanlakas-Youth chair Billie Haban.

INQUIRER tried to get the school's side, but was told that the teachers were in a meeting during the rally.

# 6 rob suspects not rubbed out, say cops

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

POLICE have ruled out summary execution in the killing of six alleged robbers on Monday night in Antipolo City.

"It would not happen in such a populated area," said Sr. Supt. Leocadio Santiago, chief of the Rizal police.

Central Police District and the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force gunned down the suspects about 100 meters from Padi's Point, a popular bar on Sumulong Highway, at about 6 p.m.

Santiago said there were too many people who could witness a rub out.

### Road block

He noted that it was rush hour and traffic was heavy because of a road block they had set up.

"So yes, we have ruled out rub out," he said.

The police identified five of the suspects as Wilfredo Sarmiento of Purok Maligaya and Eduardo Cabisig of Barangay Mambugan, both from Antipolo City; and, Dionisio Tamayo, Romualdo Refuerzo and Domingo Jaso-Jaso, 49, all three from Marikina City.

The pursuing lawmen, who were in a Tamaraw FX, said they wanted to ram the suspects' Ford Ranger pickup to force them to stop.

But the suspects reportedly maneuvered either to make a U-turn or to counter flow. As they did, they fired the first shot, hitting a NAKTF officer in the leg.

### Peppered with bullets

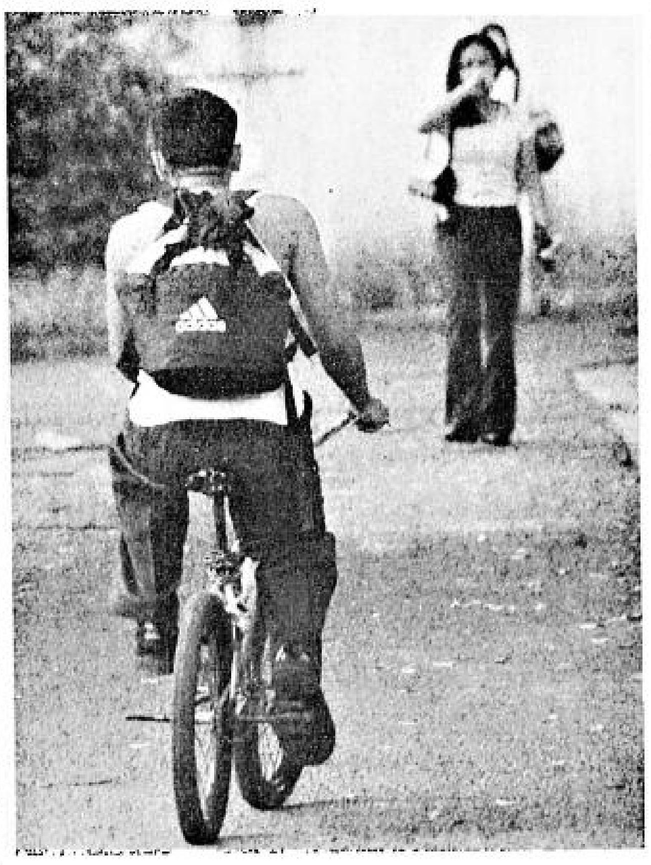
The lawmen fired back and peppered the suspects' vehicle with bullets.

The police had tailed the suspects from Cubao, Quezon City, where the CPD received reports of a possible bank robbery.

All police units were alerted and asked to look out for suspicious-looking cars.

Officers spotted the Ford Ranger and tried to flag it down, but it sped away toward Antipolo City.

The police then sought assistance from the Rizal police.



**QUICK RELIEF** ERIK ARAZAS
Residents of Manuela Subdivision in Las Piñas pass through Dandelion Street, which is now dry after Mayor Imelda Aguilar immediately ordered the declogging of a creek that caused flooding in the area. Aguilar acted on the same day the INQUIRER came out with a photo of the flooded subdivision.

# MMDA bans hanging onto rear of jeeps

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**

IT'S TIME to let go.

Acting on complaints of jeepney operators, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority renewed a drive against hanging onto the rear of jeepneys.

"We would be stricter about this," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday.

In a meeting with MMDA officials Saturday, members of the Pangkalahatang Sanggunian Manila Suburbs Drivers Association Inc. asked that "hangers-on" be apprehended because many of them do not pay the fare.

The MMDA chair also said that some "hangers-on" also serve as "covers" for jeepney robbers who prey on passengers.

Fernando said public utility drivers who allow "hangers-on" to cling to the rails outside their jeepneys would be apprehended for overloading and slapped with a P500 fine.

The MMDA chief also said the "hangers-on" would also be fined for offenses similar to jaywalking.

# Patient jumps off hospital

**By Tina G. Santos**

A 57-YEAR-OLD patient jumped off the fifth floor of the East Avenue Medical Center yesterday morning.

Benjamin Dacoco, of Napindin, Laguna, suffered a cracked skull and broken legs and died while undergoing treatment.

He had been confined at the hospital since Monday for acute ulcer.

Investigation showed that hospital security guards heard a thud outside the building at 6:45 a.m.

When they checked, they were shocked to see the victim bloodied on the pavement.

### Emergency room

The guards brought Dacoco to the Emergency Room but he died moments later, the police said.

Investigators said Dacoco was confined in room 5019 and was accompanied by his wife.

Yesterday morning, when his wife was in the restroom, Dacoco walked over to the terrace of the room and jumped off.

The wife told police that Dacoco had been unusually quiet and had appeared depressed over the past few days.

Police said that the thought of being a burden to his family, aside from the pain brought by his sickness, must have pushed the victim into committing suicide.

# Fire hazard check

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**

A BIG number of fires occurring in Makati's residential areas prompted local authorities to conduct house-to-house inspections in the city's 33 barangays.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay issued the directive to the Makati Fire Department and barangay officials after receiving a report that 52 of the 55 structural fires in the city last year occurred in residential areas.

A security agency and a shanty were razed in an hourlong fire on Sgt. Fabian Yabut Street, Barangay Guadalupe Nuevo, the other night.

The report showed that short circuit, electricity overloading, and stored-garbage piles were the common causes of fires in 2003.

"Instead of waiting for fire alarms, our firemen will be deployed to check and look for fire hazards in residential areas as a preventive measure," Binay said in a statement.

Meanwhile, a lighted candle allegedly triggered a one-hour fire that razed about 30 houses in a depressed community along Samson Road in Caloocan City yesterday.

Electricity had been cut off earlier by the Meralco after it was discovered that many houses in the area had illegal electric connections, forcing residents to use candles. *With Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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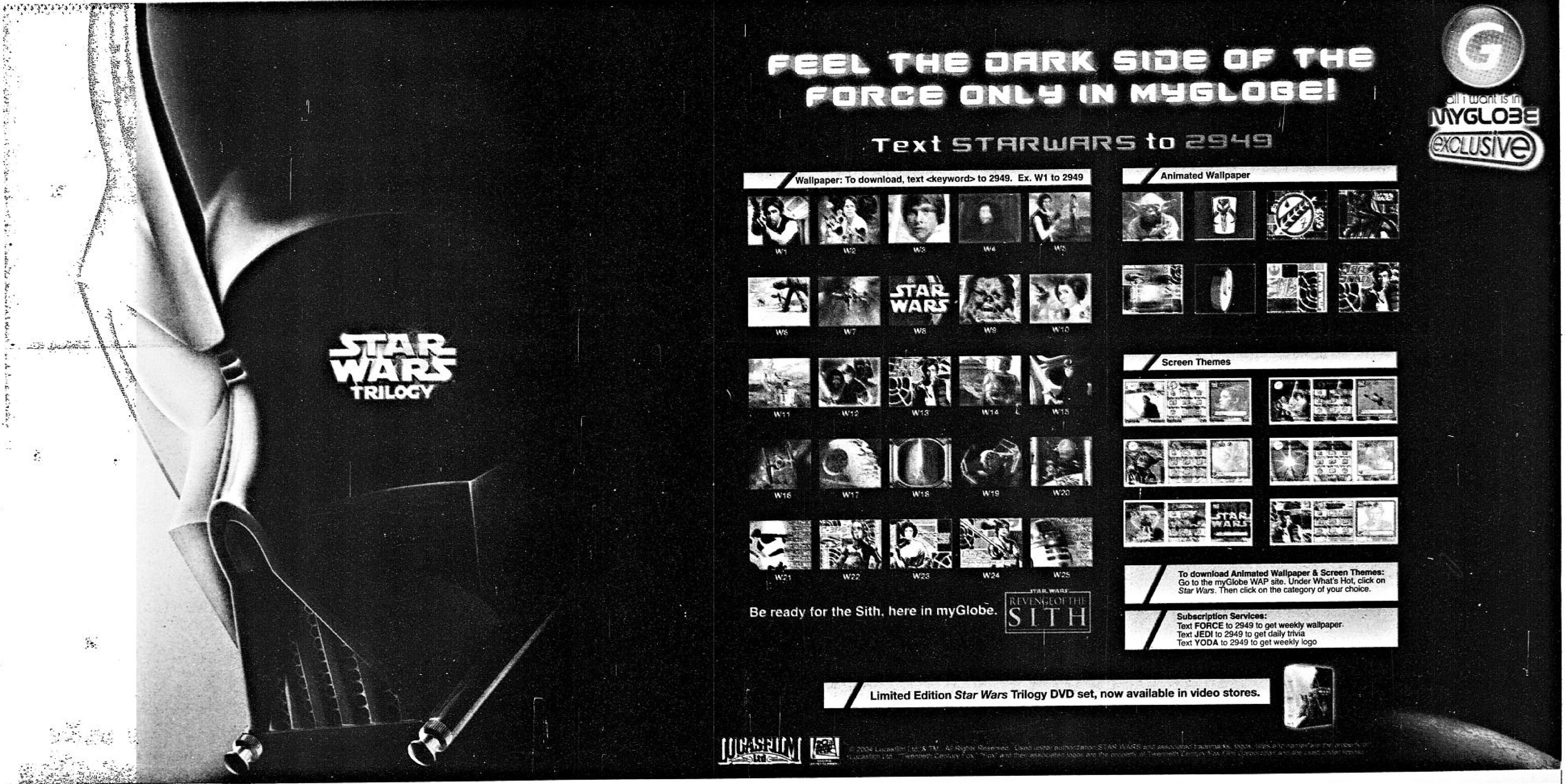

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# DOJ ruling on Asi & Co out soon

## *Gonzalez gives staff 10 days to make final review of 8 Fil-foreigners' case*

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

**WILL last year's PBA MVP Asi Taulava, Rudy Hatfield and six other Fil-foreign cagers be deported?**

Basketball fans will soon know the fate of their embattled favorite players after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday declared the Department of Justice would resolve questions about their citizenship in 10 days.

"We will try our best to resolve this as soon as possible. The results may be out in 10 days' time or in two weeks," said Gonzalez.

He said the DOJ is expediting the resolution of the cases against Taulava and the other alleged "Fil-shams" on the prodding of Sen. Lito Lapid, who has revived the Senate inquiry into the players' citizenship.

TAULAVA

HATFIELD

HARP

SEIGLE

Besides Taulava of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals and Hatfield of the Coca-Cola Tigers, the other players whose citizenship are being investigated are Andy Seigle of Purefoods, Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull Barako, Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra, Jonathan Ordonio of Alaska, and Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer.

All eight are accused of faking their citizenship papers to be able to play in Asia's first play-for-pay league.

Gonzalez said Lapid talked to him yesterday morning and he assured the senator that the results of the DOJ investigation would be released soon.

Last week, Gonzalez created a special committee to decide, "with finality," on the citizenship of the Fil-foreigners. He designated Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III to head the committee.

"Since the evidence, including the Senate findings, are all here, let's resolve this soonest with finality unless stopped by a court order," Gonzalez said.

It has been more than a year since the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports, headed by then Sen. Robert Barbers, recommended the deportation of the Fil-foreigners to the Bureau of Immigration. The panel ruled in August 2003 that Taulava and his colleagues had faked their citizenship papers.

Taulava has since obtained a court injunction against his deportation, even though the DOJ has yet to receive any formal notification from the court.

Gonzalez said the other members of the DOJ committee include State Counsels Ramon Chito Mendoza and Elmer Cris Lu Rillo and State Prosecutor Benny Nicdao.

In June, the DOJ said Ordonio is a Filipino citizen, but Gonzalez said his case would be reviewed again.

Former Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez had said that a review of Ordonio's case showed that he is a Filipino.

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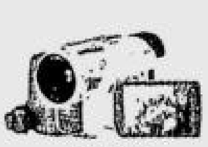
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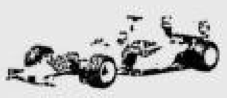
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BONDAD

# NGAP U-turn: Bondad still part of RP team

By Musong R. Castillo

THE NATIONAL Golf Association of the Philippines yesterday denied an INQUIRER report that it had dropped reigning Philippine Ladies' champion Frances Bondad from the RP Team to the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico.

"Contrary to a report that appeared in the INQUIRER on Tuesday, Frances Bondad was never 'stricken out' of the Philippine Team to the World Team Amateurs set next month in Puerto Rico," said part of the NGAP statement that was e-mailed to the INQUIRER.

"Bondad is a principal member of the RP Team, getting the seeding mainly because she is the reigning Philippine Ladies Open champion."

The clarification contradicted the statement made by non-playing ladies team captain Alice Andrada on Sunday.

Andrada, also the NGAP treasurer, said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER that they had to take the Australia-based Bondad out of the lineup because "the schedule of training and the World Am itself will take too much time and will affect her schooling."

Local golf's governing body made the clarification after Bondad's aunt, Dinah Briones, blasted the association on Tuesday for not exerting enough effort to secure Frances' Philippine passport.

This also came after the NGAP started a 54-hole elimination series between Carmelette Villaroman and Lora Roberto supposedly to determine Bondad's replacement.

Briones said Bondad is an "academically excellent" student and was in fact granted a 45-day leave from school just to join the RP Team.

NGAP secretary general Luisito Fernandez said he has given Bondad, a high school senior, until Oct. 8 to obtain a Philippine passport to be able to make the trip to Puerto Rico.

Bondad's parents were informed Friday that Frances had been dropped. The couple, who claimed they have spent P40,000 for the trip to Manila, were unable to board a Philippine Airlines flight from Sydney to Manila Saturday.

Briones said NGAP executive officer Jake Ayson told Bondad's relatives here of the decision to take the 16-year-old out of the lineup.

Hopes of getting a passport for Frances fizzled out on Friday when the NGAP told Bondad's parents that they needed to appear at the Bureau of Immigration last Monday.

The parents said they could not make the trip because of pressure from work. Briones has kept the papers of the Bondads, as required by the NGAP.

# PBA proposes 4-year plan for nat'l five

By Francis Ochoa

**THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association has shook hands with the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Both sides will gun for the hosting of the 2007 Asian Basketball Confederation championships. And the PBA is proposing a four-year training program for an elite national team.**

The target: 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"We feel that Beijing 2008 remains our best chance to return to the Olympics," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala, manifesting the league's willingness to throw its resources behind the lofty goal.

"What we propose is actually a four-year plan for the PBA to handle the national team that will compete in the ABC in 2005 in Qatar and in 2007."

The 2005 Qatar tourney is the qualifier for the World Championships while the 2007 event is the Olympic qualifier.

Unlike in past Olympics, Asia will be given two slots to the Olympics. But with Beijing hosting the 2008 quadrennial meet, the Chinese team will be seeded, bringing to three the number of Asian teams that can join the fray.

In that race for the two vacant slots are traditional Asian heavyweights South Korea and Japan as well as Lebanon.

"The plan is to have one training system wherein we have a deep enough pool to choose from and one coaching system for the entire training pool, which will be handled by a national coach, not necessarily a PBA coach, supported by a team of assistant coaches," Eala explained.

"The principle that we are proposing as part of the basketball program is that we keep a team together, we have a national coach that will be appointed to handle the team for a long time, and we have a training team that will support this national team. In this case, as we go along, we can replace players, at the same time bringing along younger ones who are already familiar with the system."

A crucial part of this whole plan, however, is the country's bid to host the ABC tournament in 2007.

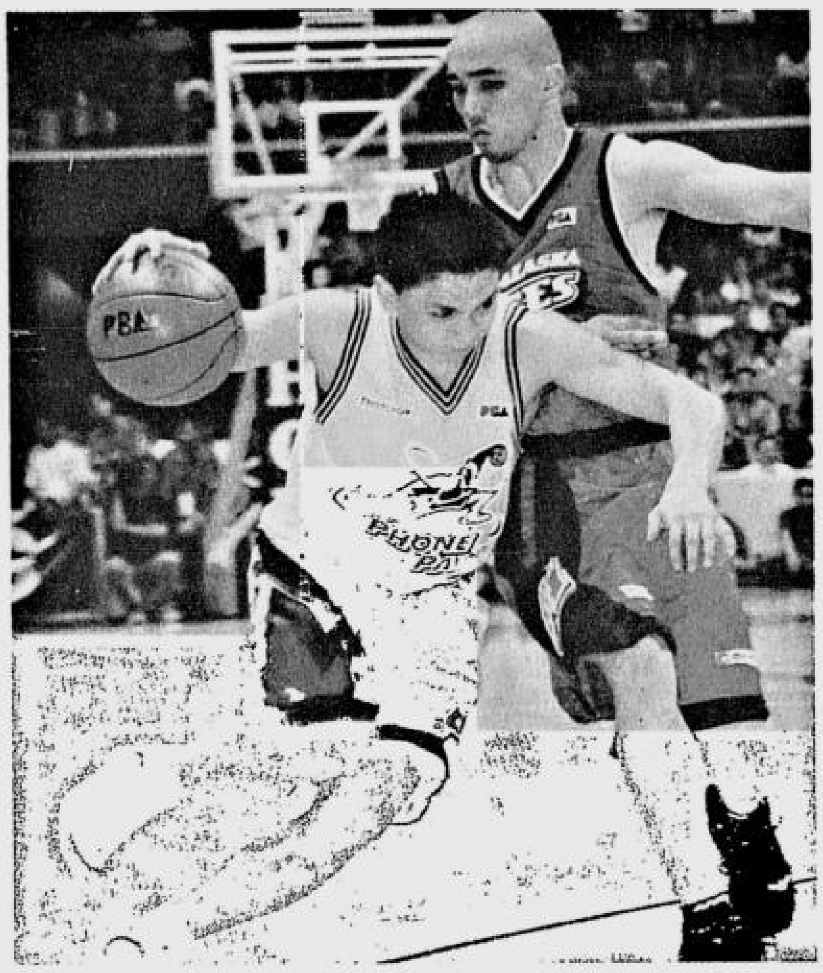
"It is, to us, an integral part of ensuring that our team will become successful and hopefully make it to Beijing. In other words, I feel that hosting the ABC ... will be the key to perhaps getting the Philippines to win the ABC or at least have a shot at the Olympics," Eala said.

Eala and BAP secretary general Graham Lim took the step in that direction by putting aside a leadership squabble over the basketball association and plotting the bid to have the ABC held here.

"We agreed in principle that the PBA will handle the team that will go to the ABC in the hope that this will be a long-term plan that will culminate in having a crack in the Olympics."

In the past, the PBA has kept its national team commitment to the Asian Games. The best finish by an all-pro team so far was in Beijing in 1990, when the Philippines finished second to China.

In 2002, the Philippines came within one defensive stop from reaching the finals against China, but lost a heartbreaker to South Korea.



JIMMY Alapag (left) of Talk 'N Text and Alaska's Mike Cortez, two of the PBA's newest stars, are among those who could make the planned national pool. PDIPHOTO

# Red Bull overpowers Taiwan five

RED Bull Barako stepped up its title bid in the 4th Shell Invitational basketball tournament in Brunei on Monday by subduing Jones Cup champion You Lon of Chinese-Taipei, 100-93, at the start of the round-robin semifinals at the Berakas indoor gym.

Fil-Am pointguard Denver Lopez fired three triples, Rico Villanueva slammed in his third dunk in the game off 6-7 Taiwan import Cedric McGinnis, and Lordy Tugade stole off Chan Au and scored on a dunk in the homestretch to finalize the Barakos' triumph.

Team manager Tony Chua said the Barakos showed a big fighting heart. "We were underdogs because Vergel (Meneses) was not able to play, but we played tough," said Chua.

Korea's professional team Hankook Raiders blasted the other Philippine squad, Spring Cooking Oil-Laguna, by more than 20 points in the other semifinal contest.

Red Bull trailed 44-49 at the half but surged ahead 74-68 going into the payoff period.

The score see-sawed in the last canto until Lopez connected those triples, the last of which gave the Barakos a two-point edge with two minutes left, and Villanueva and Tugade uncorked two dunks.

Cyrus Baguio sparked with 25 points and six rebounds, and Davonn Harp finished with 12 points and nine boards.

Red Bull and Hankook need to hurdle their second rivals to arrange a crown showdown.

# NCAA, Cebu stars lead Rookie Camp

PROMISING aspirants, led by NCAA star Gabby Espinas and Cebu's Joseph Ronald "Baby Shaq" Quiñahan, will show their stuff when the PBL holds its Rookie Camp today at the Makati Coliseum.

A bevy of Filipino-foreigners have also confirmed their participation in the event serving as a preview of the incoming players who will join the Dispersal-Rookie draft on Friday.

Commissioner Chino Trinidad appointed veteran coach Bong Go to handle the Rookie Camp.

A total of 70 players have already signified to join the camp which is unique from the past Rookie camps.

The 6-foot-4 Espinas, 22, made history in the NCAA by winning both the Rookie and MVP honors as he helped Philippine Christian University win its first NCAA crown.

Built like the NBA's Shaquille O'Neal, the 6-foot-5 Quiñahan is known for his ferocious rebounding. Leading the list of Fil-foreigners are 6-4 Christopher Tenoso, Eugene Adduro, Jeffrey Francisco, Jerome Zaldivia, Kevin White and Marlon Dumbrique.

# Laput paces Samsung golf with 70

LIPA CITY—Former jungolf standout Jong Laput fired a two-under-par 70 Monday to move in front by three strokes at the start of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Upstaging the big names in the field, Laput, who is playing out of Forest Hills, fired five birdies in the back nine (Nos. 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17) to submit the day's only sub-par round.

Former national player Boyet Zaragosa stood three shots behind after a 73 while Ronnie Torrecampo was third following a 74 as mainstays of the vaunted Canlubang squad put themselves in striking position.

Current national amateur champion Jun Berňis, preparing for the national team's stint in the World Amateur championship next month in Puerto Rico, had a slow start with the 75. The big-hitting Canlubang ace lay alone in fourth spot.

Samsung Electronics is the chief backer of the event serving as the fifth eliminations leg of a nationwide tour.

The other sponsors are Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport.

Abe Avena, Malarayat's reigning club champion, came up with a 77 to be in fifth place. Erwin Vinluan was at 79, Jojo Guingona 80 and Dave Hernandez 81.

The championship division battle precedes the 36-hole competitions in the men's and ladies' division starting today.

# Big all-around game powers De Dios

UNSEEDED Nico Riego De Dios banked on a brilliant all-around game yesterday to join two seeded compatriots in the boys' singles quarterfinals of the 2004 Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

The Olongapo City-based De Dios, who ousted third seed Lai Xiao-peng of Hong Kong in the first round, outclassed Michael Basco, 6-2, 6-2, to advance against No. 8 Chien Chang-ting of Taiwan, who beat qualifier Ma Kai Chieh, 6-1, 6-4.

Filipinos Miguel Narvaez and Ralph Kevin Barte scored contrasting wins to also advance. The No. 6 Narvaez needed an extra set to prevail over Korean Seo Jeong Han, 6-0, 0-6, 7-5, while the No. 7 Barte ripped Taiwan's Ma Kai Chun, 6-1, 6-1.

Narvaez's next opponent is second seed Taiwanese Chang Huai-en, who beat compatriot Ko Min-fu, 6-3, 6-3. Barte will meet Taiwanese Lien Chia Chu, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Korean qualifier Mun Hu Hae.

Top seed Martin Sayer of Hong Kong blasted Korean qualifier Hong Hwi Jin, 6-0, 6-0, to forge a quarterfinal showdown with Taiwanese qualifier Peng Hsieh-yin, who ousted Kyle Joshua Dandan, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In girls' singles, top seed Korean Chin Seul-ki survived Melissa Orteza, 6-4, 0-6, 7-6, to advance to the quarterfinals against Japanese qualifier Aki Yamasoto, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over local Trudy Gine Amoranto.

In other matches, third seed Filipino-German Vanessa Anja Peter demolished local Catherine Flores, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Japanese Matsumi Yokota, who beat local Noelle Conchita Zoleta, 6-3, 6-0.

# POC caucus focuses on SEAG events

THE HOTTEST issues in Philippine sports—the Philippine Olympic Committee elections in November and the leadership dispute in swimming—will take the backseat when the POC general assembly meets today in Makati City.

POC president Celso Dayrit yesterday said the two issues are not on the agenda as the body shifts its focus on the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

He said the assembly will discuss the sports that may be added to the 34 previously approved and the number of events to be disputed in each.

The POC, through the Philipping SEA Games Committee, will present the result of the meeting to the 11-member SEAG Federation on Oct. 11-12 at the New World Hotel.

Some national sports association heads, however, are expected to push for the discussion of the elections. The assembly will meet for the last time today before the polls.

Dayrit, on his second term as POC head; is expected to figure in a duel with equestrian president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco for the presidency.

POC secretary general Romy Ribano said it would be the POC executive council, not the general assembly, that will tackle the elections. He said the council will appoint officials to seats in the commission on elections in the first week of October.

*Marc Anthony Reyes*

# Pacquiao has reason to feel insulted

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

(THRILLA: His books are regularly a celebration of rebel life. But on Friday, the 29th year of the unforgettable Thrilla in Manila, Ave Perez Jacob lends a hand in the centennial celebration of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines with the launch of his newest masterpiece "*Isang Pagdiriwang ng Sandaang Taong Sosyo-Politikal na Pakikibaka ng PUP*" at the school campus in Sta. Mesa, Manila. A multi-awarded writer and novelist, Jacob avoided the tedious and wove fresh insights in tracing the growth of the PUP, a former vocational school that had to find temporary shelter in the buildings of other schools of learning but which produced the first batches of stenographers, bookkeepers, accountants and other office personnel who contributed greatly in the early growth of the country. Jacob also delved into the real reasons behind the American acquisition of the Philippines during the time of William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. The Oct. 1 affair will be preceded today by the launching of Prof. Rogelio Ordonez's collection of columns and essays titled "Pluma't Papel.")

***

HIS promoter in the USA obviously meant well but, if you were Manny Pacquiao, would you fight someone who's not even in the Top 10 of an alphabet-soup boxing association?

By his name, Gairy St. Clair could easily be mistaken for an aspiring pop artist.

But reports yesterday said this aspiring gladiator from Australia, reputedly the World Boxing Organization (WBO) Intercontinental champion, might be in Manila late November to fight Pacquiao.

Naturally, the ready prayer was for the proposed bout not to materialize.

Why? Because, unworthy as he is, St. Clair could be crushed beyond repair by Pacquiao, squealed boxing scholar Hermie Rivera.

***

It's an insult to Pacquiao, feeding him someone whose only credential was his having lost successively to name fighters like Diego Corrales and Leonard Dorin, Rivera protested.

As Intercontinental champion, St. Clair is at the top of WBO featherweights ranked only 11th down.

It's not a healthy proposal, and the ready advice was for Pacquiao to refuse being sold cheap, no matter how badly he needs a full-blown workout before the year ends.

From what Rivera surmised, Murad Muhammad, Pacquiao's US promoter, is in a frantic race to get Pacquiao a fight.

Murad's contract with Pacquiao will expire next February and the glib American fight peddler must deliver in order to be retained.

***

His registered manager meant well but, if you were Manny Pacquiao, would you agree to extend your contract for another five years to the tune of P5 million?

At the awful rate the peso has been sinking against the dollar, Pacquiao may not have the appetite to sign up even if offered twice that sum.

But that's exactly what Marty Elorde, Pacquiao's registered manager, had dangled to the biggest Filipino world boxing celebrity.

In 2000, Pacquiao, swayed by a P1 million signing bonus, signed a five-year pact with Elorde which expires next February.

For P5 million, Pacquiao would be sharing 30 per cent of all his purses with the Elorde group until 2010, if he agrees to an extension.

The odd thing is that Elorde, who allegedly dummies for a Japanese financier, himself admitted that Pacquiao "deserves more than what I'm offering."

Well, you need not be too keen on the economics of boxing to sense that Pacquiao is again in danger of being short-changed.

Meanwhile, out there in Freddie Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in California, there were reports Pacquiao is all set to pack up and fly home.

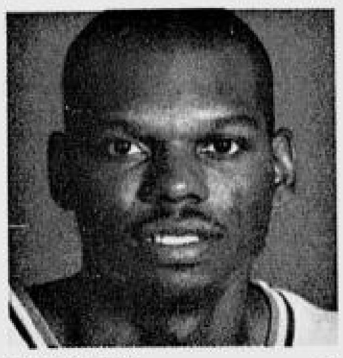
The restlessness is obviously being fueled by homesickness and desperation.

Knowing Pacquiao, the contract extension and money matter could wait.

However, nothing could be more frustrating than killing yourself to be in peak form with no idea whatsoever whom you'll be fighting.

Pitting a pound-for-pound great against a nobody who could either faint or sink at the first hiss of a man-sized killer left hook amounts to an insult.

# Injured Mashburn could call it a day



MASHBURN AP

NEW ORLEANS—Former All-Star forward Jamal Mashburn will miss the entire 2004-05 NBA season because of a knee injury that could end his career.

Mashburn and the New Orleans Hornets announced the news Monday, a week before the start of training camp.

The injury kept Mashburn, a 10-year veteran, out of all but 19 games last season after he underwent surgery to remove loose particles from his right knee. Mashburn said strenuous activity causes the knee to swell as badly as it did last March when his season ended. He averaged 20.8 points.

In a news conference, Mashburn said the injury could end his career, which began in 1993 as a first-round draft choice of the Dallas Mavericks. He also had a stint with the Miami Heat before joining the Hornets in 2000 and making the All-Star team during the 2002-03 season. *AP*

## URBL CAGING

# Pampanga stuns Cebu

**BOGO, Cebu—Visiting Harbour Centre-Pampanga came up with a stunning debut with a thrilling 98-95 upset of host Lactovitale-Cebu as the United Regional Basketball League (URBL) took its games to the spanking new 5,000-seat Don Celestino Martinez Coliseum Monday night.**

M. Lhuillier-Cebu stayed undefeated in two starts by routing the Quezon Coco Huskers, 96-84, in the opener.

Pampanga skipper Ariel Garcia waxed hot at the start of the fourth to push his team to a 90-77 spread.

Egged by the crowd that included team owners Vice Gov. Greg Sanchez, former Rep. Junie Martinez, Joe Soberano, Bogo Mayor Tining Martinez and former Sen. John Osmeña, Lactovitale charged back behind reserves Franklin Nailon and Chris Daruca.

Opel Abellana sank two freethrows off Garcia's last foul to threaten with 32 seconds left, 95-96. Pampanga botched its next play but Lactovitale failed to capitalize as it committed a 24-second violation.

Garcia had 26 points for the Harbour-Centre of brothers Mikee and Nikki Romero.

Action in the community-based league backed by adidas resumes today as Lactovitale hosts the Ilocos Sur Snipers at the Martinez Coliseum at 4 p.m. while at the New Cebu Coliseum, M. Lhuillier tests Harbour Centre at 5 p.m.

**The Scores:**

**First Game**

**M. LHUILLIER 96**—Laygo 21, Dacia 17, Enriquez 12, Cañoneo 9, Lumantas 9, Bal-og 8, Smith 8, Marata 6, Ocañada 3, Garcia 2, Rubi 1.

**QUEZON 84**—Rodriguez 28, Booker 13, Tenorio 11, Lapera 10, Nuñez 9, Tierra 5, Catalan 4, Latorono 2, Seso 2.

**Quarters:** 17-17, 41-39, 66-58, 96-84

**Second Game**

**HARBOUR CENTRE 98**—Garcia 26, Bognot 13, Duyag 11, R. Mendoza 9, Santos 9, Yambao 7, J. Mendoza 6, Liangco 4, Ruiz 4, Bansil 3, Magpayo 2, Ronquillo 2, Sierra 2.

**LACTOVITALE 95**—Castillo 17, Nailon 16, Jueves 13, Bughao 10, Daruca 9, Orquillas 8, Briones 6, Abellana 4, Balingit 4, De la Victoria 4, Gomez 2, Ursal 2.

**Quarters:** 24-24, 46-45, 75-71, 98-95.

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| M. Lhuillier-Cebu City | 2 | 0 |
| Harbour Centre-Pampanga | 1 | 0 |
| Lactovitale-Cebu Province | 1 | 1 |
| Ilocos Sur Snipers | 0 | 1 |
| Quezon Coco Huskers | 0 | 2 |

**GAMES TODAY**

4 p.m.—Lactovitale-Cebu Province vs Ilocos Sur Snipers (*at Bogo, Cebu*)
5 p.m.—M. Lhuillier-Cebu City vs Harbour Centre-Pampanga (*at Cebu City*)

# Laylo earns chess Olympiad berth

**Standings**

**Men's after Round 15:** NM Laylo 11.0; NM Senador, IM Garma 10.5; IM Gonzales 10.0; NM Barbosa, FM Donguines 9.5; IM Roca 9.0; IM Nadera 7.0; FM Sales, NM Nolte, IM Dableo 6.5; So 6.0; NM Diaz 5.5; NM Carlos 5.0; NM Maga 3.0; Fazon, NM Perez 2.0.

**Women's after Round 9:** WFM Lomibao 7.5; WNM Salvador, WIM Mendoza 6.0; Rivera, WIM Mariano 5.5; Castellano 5.0; Cuizon, Abanes 4.5; Cruz, Camacho 3.5; Castro 1.5; Alvarez 1.0.

TAGAYTAY CITY—National Master Darwin Laylo virtually clinched a spot in the Olympic-bound RP men's team after a quick draw with International Master Jayson Gonzales in the 15th round of the National Chess Championships Sunday night at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

The match, which lasted only 15 moves, pushed Laylo's total to 11.0 points, a half point ahead of IM Chito Garma and NM Emmanuel Senador and a point clear of Gonzales, who was left in a must-win situation against Garma in the 16th and penultimate round late yesterday. Garma beat NM Mirabeau Maga in 26 moves of a King's Indian Attack.

Senador, on the other hand, drew with NM Oliver Barbosa after 44 moves of Scandinavian to stay inside the magic number. Senador will have to go through IM Ronald Dableo and Laylo in the last two rounds.

The top three finishers in the men's will join Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Mark Paragua in the Philippine team to the Chess Olympiad on Oct. 14-31 in Majorca, Spain.

Olympic veterans Fide Master Fernie Donguines and IM Petronio Roca have mathematical chances of booking a top three finish.

Donguines scalped FM Jesse Noel Sales after 67 moves of a Torre Attack while Roca downed NM Rolando Nolte in a Sicilian to break the nine-point barrier.

Donguines shared fifth spot with Barbosa at 9.5 while Roca was at 9.0. A tie for third will be resolved by playoff. Ten-year-old Wesley So, the youngest ever finalist in the event sponsored this year by the First Gentleman Foundation and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino took the measure of top seed and reigning Asian 3.2a Zonal champion Dableo after 59 moves of a French. IM Barlo Nadera and NM Rodolfo Diaz Jr. defeated Fame Fazon and NM Leonardo Carlos, respectively.

WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao inched closer to the title in the distaff side after drawing her match with WNM Christine Castellano in 41 moves of a Sicilian. WIM Beverly Mendoza and WNM Aices Salvador shared second to third places with victories over WNM Carmelita Alvarez and WNM Kathryn Ann Cruz. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# *Caoili to play for Australia*

WHAT a shame.

Filipino Woman International Master Arianne Caoili, one of the country's strongest chess players, will play for Australia in this year's Chess Olympiad in Majorca, Spain.

The development came at the heels of the Southeast Asian Games incident last year, when Caoili failed to suit up for the country because she and her mother were not given round-trip Tickets to Vietnam from Australia where they are based.

The 17-year-old Caoili, anchor of the Philippine women's team in the 2000 Istanbul and 2002 Bled Olympiads, will play on Board 2 of the Aussies.

Caoili recently finished second in the inaugural Nell Van de Graaf Classic, trailing only IM Stephen Solomon, Board 4 player of the Australian men's team in this year's Olympiad.

She went undefeated in seven rounds while scoring 6.0 points, a half point behind Solomon. Caoili settled for a draw with Solomon in their fifth-round meeting. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# Sharapova triumphs in Korea Open start

SHARAPOVA REUTERS

SEOUL—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova crushed Switzerland's Emmanuelle Gagliardi, 6-1, 6-3, in the first round of the Hansol Korea Open WTA event on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old Russian broke Gagliardi's serve five times, beating her in 71 minutes in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

"I thought I played quite well, although the court surface was a little bit different to China. It's a little slower and I had to adjust in the first few games," Sharapova told reporters.

Sharapova lost, 6-2, 6-2, to US Open champion and compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova in the semifinals of the China Open on Saturday. She heads for Japan after Seoul.

She hit her stride in the third game and took the first set in 37 minutes. She followed that with three love games in the second set, one of them with two aces in a row.

Sharapova played Gagliardi on the center court of Seoul's 1988 Olympic tennis complex. She will play Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia or American Sunitha Rao in the second round on Thursday. *Reuters*

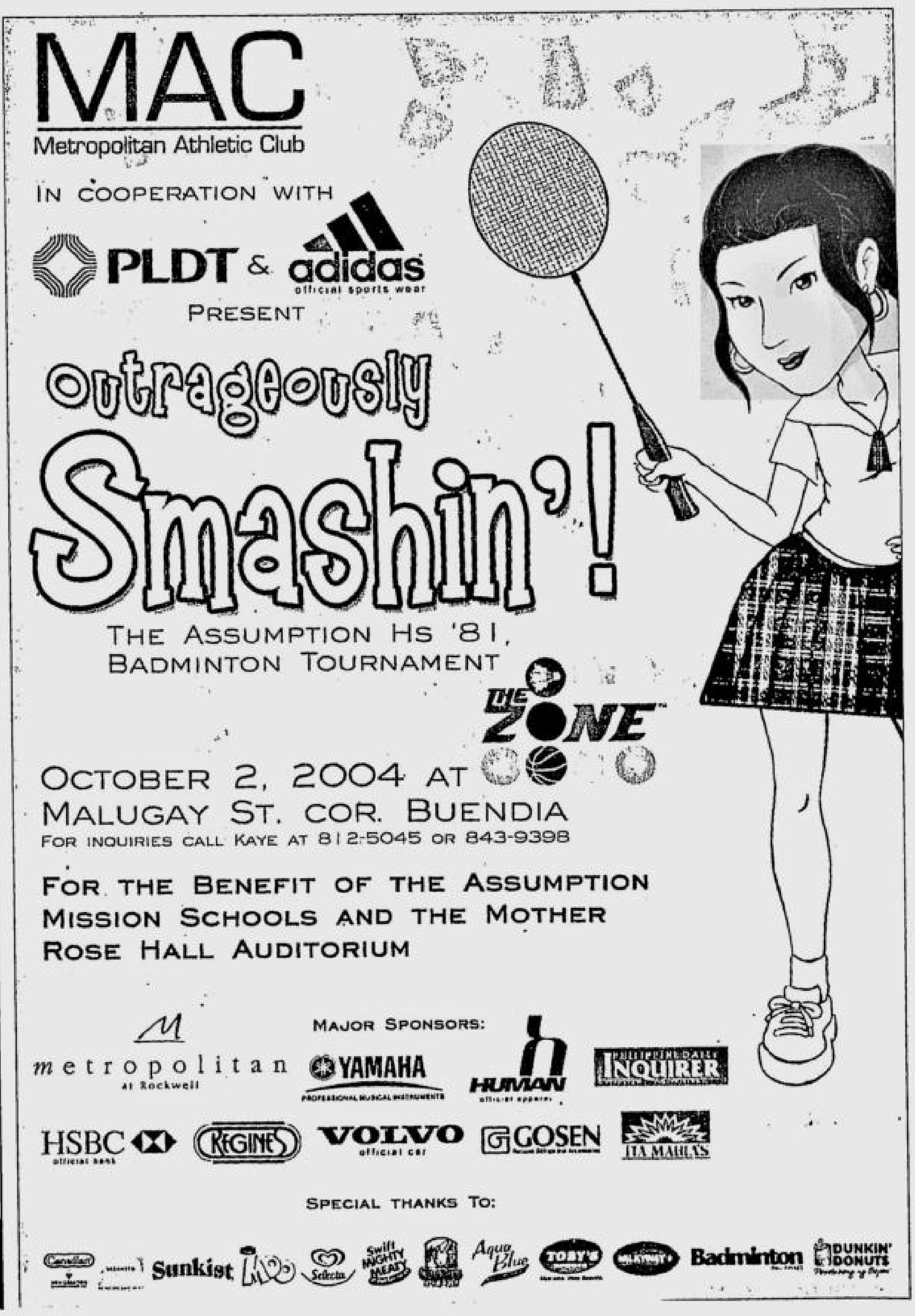
# Yakult heats up marathon season

THE 2004 marathon season heats up on Nov. 7, with the staging of the Yakult 10-Mile Classic in an out-and-back course at the CCP Complex grounds in Pasay City.

Last year's champions, Rodolfo Tacadino and Hazel Madamba, are expected to return to defend their titles, said marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho and Michael Ong, Yakult Phils. Inc. assistant manager for sales and planning.

Now on its 16th year, this annual foot race is expected to draw 2,500 running enthusiasts and makes it the country's second longest-running road race. In recent years, this premier 10-mile race has been expanded to include shorter races to provide opportunities for the fun and competitive runners.

"Coming just a week before the Milo Marathon finals, the event would be a good pre-race training for the finalists while at the same time, weekend runners will have a chance to join mass-running events for two consecutive weekends," said Biscocho who also organizes the Milo Marathon.



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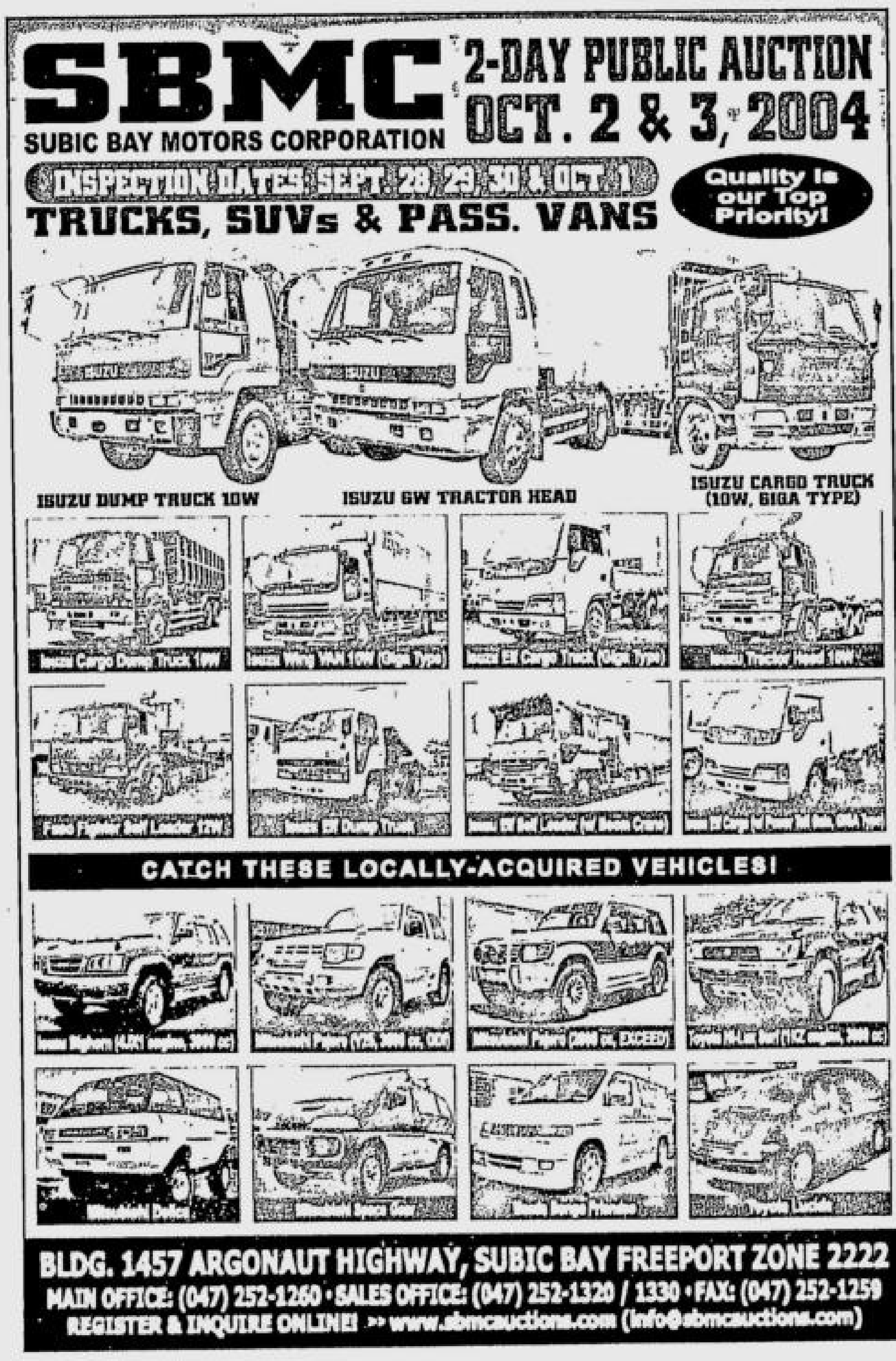

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# RP tennis rebounds through young stars

NOELLE Nikki Zoleta shows her winning form in the recent Asian Under-14 event. RYAN LIM

By Dennis U. Eroa

CONTRARY to rumors, Philippine tennis isn't a dead ball, after all. Like a newly opened can of balls, local tennis has a good bounce.

This, despite the fact that the country is still looking for a player that will someday do a Paradorn Srichapan, the marvelous Thai world-beater.

Not to disappoint the believers, the country indeed lags behind its Southeast Asian Games neighbors, notably Thailand and Indonesia.

With most of the leading players—save for the talented Subic Bay-based Patrick John Tierro—stagnating due to lack of international exposure, the country's tennis scene needs a makeover, a big, sure push like Andy Roddick's monstrous serve.

Thankfully, though, local tennis is again on the upswing. And this time, the focus is on the crop of players 14 years and under.

Recently, sun-baked Filipino netters, backed up by an army of parents, traded strokes with their Asian counterparts. The sunny results proved that given the right exposure, the Philippines can produce world-caliber players in a few years' time.

Thanks to Asian Tennis Federation president Buddy Andrada and Indian expatriate Ajay Pathak, the only Asian member of the International Tennis Federation junior competition committee, local tennis has shown signs of picking up.

Pathak, who has called the Philippines home for more than 20 years, masterminded the creation of the Asian 14-under series, which is supported fully by the Australian Open.

Francis Casey Alcantara of Malaybalay, Bukidnon and Noelle Nikki Zoleta, both unranked, showed tons of promise by ruling the inaugural Futures Foundation-ATF 14-under series recently at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

"The Asian 14-under series is long-awaited and I am delighted that it has finally taken shape with the help of the Australian Open," said Andrada.

Paul McNamee, a veteran grand slammer and now chief executive of the Australian Open, told an ITF news bulletin:

"This exciting initiative reinforces our commitment to providing opportunities and assistance to promote the growth of tennis in the Asian region."

As ATF director for juniors, Pathak is at the forefront of the series.

Tournaments will also be held this year in Sri Lanka, India, Uzbekistan, Qatar, China, Thailand and Korea.

"Past experience has shown that world-class Asian players come in trickles. I found that out in Europe and South America where 14-under programs exist. In Asia, it's only for the 18-under," Pathak noted.

"Our goal really is for Asian 14-under players to play in the Australian Open in a few years' time."

To sweeten the pot, Pathak said winners in the sub-regions will be able to play in December in Australia.

"They can also watch the Australian Open in January," Pathak added.

The smooth-swinging Alcantara and Zoleta earned an all-expense paid stint to Australia.

"We're excited. We're going to meet the world's best players," said the duo.

National Power Corporation

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD-2004-12

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

| SCHEDULE | ITEM/DESCRIPTION | PR NUMBER | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT |
|---|---|---|---|
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 22, 2004; 2:00/3:00 PM | | | |
| 12A1 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE RECONDITIONING OF TWO (2) UNITS TURBO CHARGER ASSY. | 58DP-04-187 (RA) | P 5,230,000.00 |
| 12A2 | CME-DIESEL - 1% BLEND OF COCONUT METHYL ESTER & 99% DIESEL FUEL (B1COCOBIODIESEL)/CME-COCONUT METHYL ESTER | 0TTD-04-251 (EA) | P 3,136,112.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 25, 2004; 9:00 AM | | | |
| 12B1 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & SPARE PARTS FOR THE REHAB, REPAIR, COMMISSIONING & TESTING OF SAFT NIFE EQUIPMENT (PB2) | 1MCF-04-307 (JP) | P 1,010,000.00 |
| 12B2 | BULK LOADING SPOUT, BRAND: OCL (PB2) | 1MCF-04-360 (LS) | P 1,184,294.00 |
| 12B3 | TUBE, AL-BRASS ANNEALED (PB3) | 1MCF-04-300 (LS) | P 2,500,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 25, 2004; 2:00 PM | | | |
| 12C1 | LAMPS, HPI-T LAMP, MOGUL BASE, PHILIPS OR EQUIV. (250/400/1000 WATTS) | 1MCF-04-501 (LS) | P 1,080,000.00 |
| 12C2 | POWER CABLE, PANZERFLEX L MV OR EQUIV. | 1MCF-04-502 (LS) | P 2,460,000.00 |
| 12C3 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS PARTS & EQUIPT. FOR GEN. RECONDITIONING OF CATERPILLAR 928G PAYLOADER W/SERIAL NO. 75R00161 | 1MCF-04-503 (LS) | P 3,675,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 26, 2004; 9:00 AM | | | |
| 12D1 | JOINT, FLEXIBLE, RUBBER, HEAVY DUTY | 5PGP1-04-149 (LS) | P 1,320,352.00 |
| 12D2 | SYSTEM, BATTERY MONITORING | 5PGP2-04-044 (LS) | P 5,000,000.00 |
| 12D3 | BREAKER, GAS CIRCUIT | 5PGP2-04-034 (LS) | P 4,800,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 26, 2004; 2:00 PM | | | |
| 12E1 | GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM, MODEL: GEO XM 512MB COMPLETE W/ TERRASYNC PROFESSIONAL & GPS PATHFINDER OFFICE SOFTWARE KIT, MADE IN USA OR EQUIV. | WMD-04-098 (ZC) | P 1,200,000.00 |
| 12E2 | AIR COMPRESSOR, FOR BROWN BOVERY CO. CIRCUIT BREAKER (PB2) | 1MAG-04-0117 (LS) | P 2,500,000.00 |
| 12E3 | J.O.-TO SUPPLY LABOR & MATLS FOR THE RETROFITTING OF STATIC EXCITATION OF AUXILIARY UNIT 1&2 GENERATOR | 1ANG-04-0362 (JP) | P 20,000,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 27, 2004; 9:00 AM | | | |
| 12F1 | J.O.-TO SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS & EQUIPMENTS INCLUDING SUPERVISION IN THE REHAB OF 13.8KV TRANSMISSION & COMMUNICATION LINES (PB2 RESCHED) | 3TPM-03-004 (RP) | P 2,500,000.00 |
| 12F2 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF METEOROLOGICAL STATION/WEATHER INSTRUMENT AT PLANTS A&C | 3TGP-04-037 (RP) | P 3,000,000.00 |
| 12F3 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CONTINUOUS EMISSION MONITORING SYSTEM AT PLANT A TGPP | 3TGP-04-036 (RP) | P 6,500,000.00 |
| 12F4 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CONTINUOUS EMISSION MONITORING SYSTEM AT BACMAN 1 UNIT NO. 2 | 3BAC-04-650 (RP) | P 6,500,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 27, 2004; 2:00 PM | | | |
| 12G1 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS IN THE INSTALLATION OF COOLING TOWER LEVEL SENSOR AND INDICATOR | 3TGP-04-021 (RP) | P 2,500,000.00 |
| 12G2 | SODIUM HYDROXIDE (CAUSTIC SODA) | 3MGP-04-273 (ZC) | P 9,720,000.00 |

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12A1-12A2 | October 8, 2004; 2:00/3:00 PM | 12E1-12E3 | October 12, 2004; 2:00 PM |
| 12B1-12B3 | October 11, 2004; 9:00 AM | 12F1-12F4 | October 13, 2004; 9:00 AM |
| 12C1-12C3 | October 11, 2004; 2:00 PM | 12G1-12G2 | October 13, 2004; 2:00 PM |
| 12D1-12D3 | October 12, 2004; 9:00 AM | | |

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on September 28, 2004. **Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.**

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by other NPC Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit-One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Sept. 22 & 29, 2004)

GLENN Aguilar: Good as hyped

# Aguilar posts two victories

CALTEX Revtex top rider Glenn Aguilar lived up to the hype as he posted two victories in the Pro 125 and Pro Open divisions of the Camel Supercross Championships in Roxas City recently.

With an FIM Asia-Pacific title tucked under his belt, Aguilar did not take long to dominate both the premier Expert Pro Open and Pro 125 categories. Aguilar pulled away and eventually catched up with the second placers of the two races.

"I felt good. My rhythm and timing were there. Plus, I have a brand-new KTM 2004 racing machine working perfectly well with a Revtex oil that is above its class, how can I go wrong with that?" asked Aguilar, a seven-time National Rider of the Year.

Revtex oil has been a constant over the team's supremacy in local and international motocross.

Revtex's thorough domination in the motocross festival organized and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) was felt strongest, however, in the Pro Open, where it pulled off a 1-2-3-4 finish (Aguilar-Dela Cruz-Jerry Beech-Alvin Beech) with Saulog placing 5th.

## RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Bunker Buster 2. Sambat 3. Native Land 4. Burst of Speed/Yokozuna
Race 2—1. Material Trick 2. Blitzkrieg 3. Smart Kevin 4. Rebound 5. Native Talent
Race 3—1. Big Mama 2. Dennis D Menace 3. Real Charm 4. Sham Sham 5. Suterian Era
Race 4—1. Señor Presidente 2. Kalashnikov 3. Black Force 4. Musika 5. Roulette Queen
Race 5—1. Magic Bullet 2. Centra 3. Sugar Ray 4. Naglalabyog
Race 6—1. True Mighty 2. Last Dance 3. Victory Lap 4. You and Me
Race 7—1. Scrap of Gold 2. My Sheikh 3. Tell Henry 4. Nitty Gritty 5. Candy's Angel/Silver Dollar
Race 8—1. Half Medium 2. Prickly Heat 3. Mercurian 4. Ocean Cookie 5. All Powerful 6. Kantayok

## SPORTSWATCH

### Balce, Polero enter National Finals

MARK Balce of Ateneo routed Tomic Apacible, 6-4, 7-6, in the boys' 14-under division, while Tim Polero whipped brother Kim Polero, 6-3, 6-3, in the unisex 10-under class to gain a slot in the National Finals at the close of the 2004 Milo Regional Finals-NCR at the Philam Homes Tennis Club. Zhane Quitara outclassed Regina Santiago in the girls' 12-under division, 6-1, 6-1, while Kim Ivor Saraza edged Kyle Cordero, 6-0, 6-4, in the boys' 12-under division. In the 14-under girls' division, Erenielle Soriano won by default over Christine Patrimonio in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Adidas and Malaysia Airlines as the official carrier.

### Southwest FC rules Butuan leg

SOUTHWEST Football Club defeated Sunbeam FC, 1-0, to rule the Butuan-leg of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta recently staged by the Butuan-Agusan Norte Football Association (BANFA). Striker Solemar Gilo accounted for the lone goal. At the end of the final game, BANFA president Tito Clemente awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy to Ronan Eupenia of Southwest FC. As part of her award, the 13-year old MVP was given a high school scholarship. Eupenia is the 3rd scholar borne out of the official Under-14 tournament of the Philippine Football Federation. Agusan National High School beat Ong Yiu Elementary School, 3-2, in a shoot-out to cop third place. The closing ceremonies at the Villa Kanaga Elementary School pitch also featured the school's dance troupe performing a cultural dance number called "Sayaw Sa Caraga". The Jollibee mascot showed up to entertain both players and audience by kicking some balls before the final game. The Red Ribbon Football Fiesta in Butuan was organized and managed by BANFA and co-sponsored by the Jollibee Center and Gaisano Mall.

### Southeast Asian Canoe in Subic

THE 5TH Southeast Asian Canoe Championships and the 3rd Junior Southeast Asian Canoe Championships will be held at the Fisherman's Wharf in Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Ten countries, including host Philippines, will battle for honors in this tournament organized by the Philippine Canoe-Kayak Federation (PCKF). Regional powerhouse teams Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia are sending the biggest number of athletes with 38, 34 and 32, respectively. Other participating teams are Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. The Philippines has 22 athletes led by SEAG veterans Carmelito Dacasin, Jonard Saren, April Peñalosa, Janet Escallona and Jeremiah Tambor. PCKF president Sim Chi Tat expects the Filipino paddlers to take advantage of the familiarity with the venue and give the field a worthy competition. East Timor will have two federation officials as observers.

### LGBA 7-stag features 120 fights

ABOUT 120 fights will be featured in the championship round of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association Inc. (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby today at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. The 4-stag finals will start at noon, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. The pacesetters are Bobbit Hollero, Baby Canillas, Edwin Ramos, Joel Artus, Rep. Larry Wacnang, Nancele Balibalos, Jun Bautista, Manuel Lui and Tony Tabora, who scored three wins each Monday night at the Araneta. Qualifiers from Roligon will also see action today, among them are three pointers Mike Buendia, LGBA president Boy Diaz, Bong Aspe and Butch Littaua, Romy Tan, Tony Galang, Boots Yap, Ding Jose and Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino. Supporting the derby are Asvet Inc., Thunderbird, Robichem Laboratories, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Lakpue Drug Inc. and Vitarich Corp. For inquiries, contact 926-7808, 924-5072 and 924-5051 (loc. 128) or 0920-5851940.

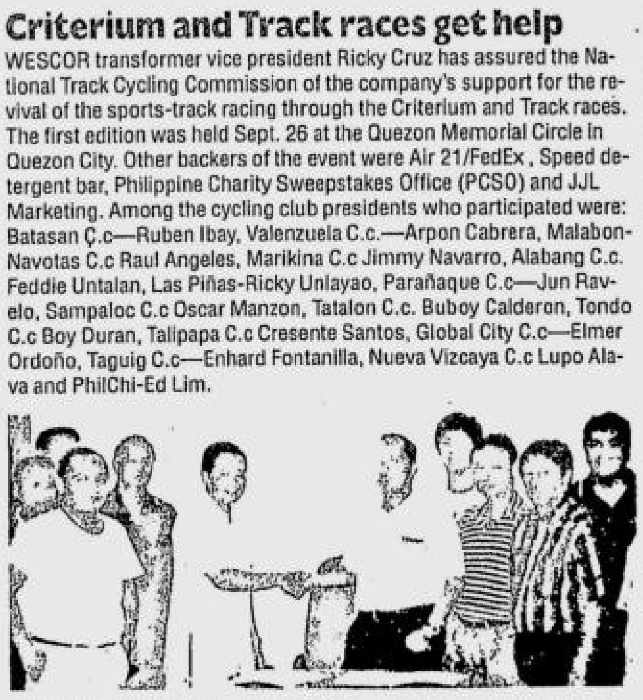
### UE, ICA share powerlift honors

UNIVERSITY of the East, Immaculate Conception Academy and University of the Philippines shared top honors in the fourth Inter-School Powerlifting Championships held last weekend at the Robinsons Place, Manila. UE emerged men's high school and women's college champions, while ICA bagged the women's secondary and men's college champions, respectively. Carlo Macalinao, Ecaterina Cardano, Chino Uichanco and Kathleen Ong emerged as the tourney's top individual performers as they set Inter-School records in their categories. Macalinao, who had a total lift of 418 kilograms (145 kg for squat, 88.5 for benchpress and 190 for deadlift) and Cardano, who came up with a 190-kg total (70-25-95), topped the high school competition. Uichanco, who submitted a total lift of 646 kg (240-170, 5-235) and Ong, who hoisted 280 (120-42.5-1250, ruled the college division. Guest lifter Raymond Debuque, 11-year-old son of national coach Ramon, posted a 330-kg total (150 squat, 60 benchpress and 125 deadlift). More than 60 lifters competed in the tourney organized by the Powerlifting Association of the Philippines led by Nick Cabalza.

**CHAMPION DRAG RACER** Joey Galang (right) of MOH Speed, the PRO class champion in the 3rd leg of the Petron Blaze Shootout National Drag Race Championship Series held Saturday in Pampanga, receives his trophy and cash prize from Bebot Reyes of Activity Asia Association.

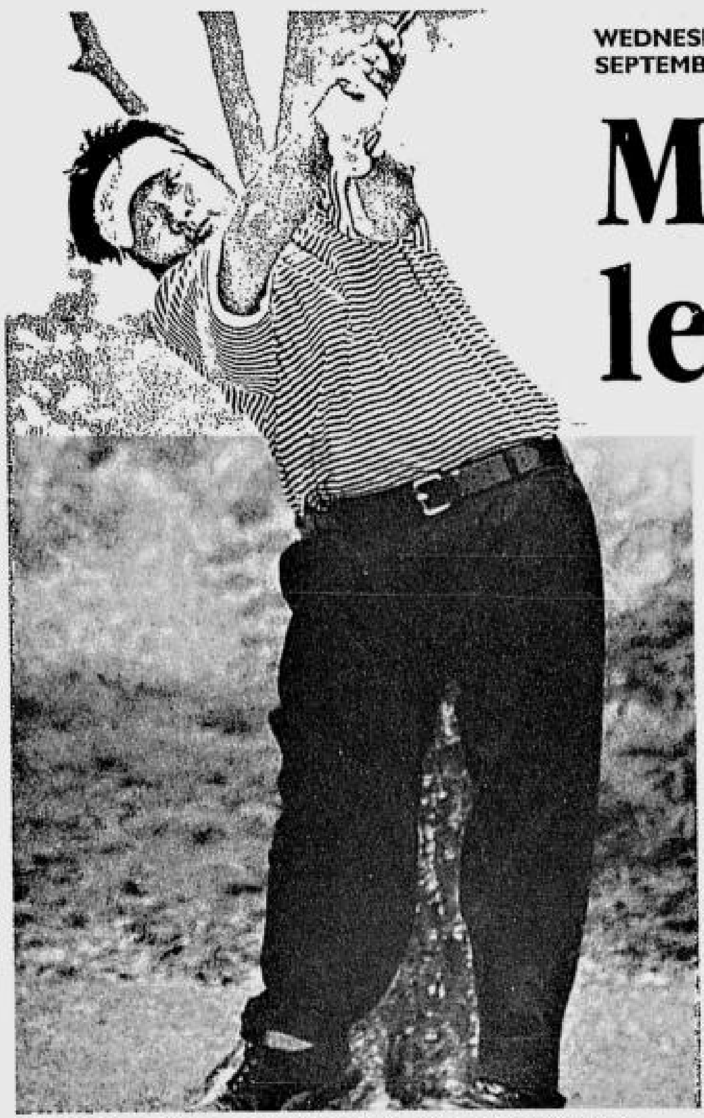
### Criterium and Track races get help

WESCOR transformer vice president Ricky Cruz has assured the National Track Cycling Commission of the company's support for the revival of the sports-track racing through the Criterium and Track races. The first edition was held Sept. 26 at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. Other backers of the event were Air 21/FedEx , Speed detergent bar, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and JJL Marketing. Among the cycling club presidents who participated were: Batasan Ç.c—Ruben Ibay, Valenzuela C.c.—Arpon Cabrera, Malabon-Navotas C.c Raul Angeles, Marikina C.c Jimmy Navarro, Alabang C.c. Feddie Untalan, Las Piñas-Ricky Unlayao, Parañaque C.c—Jun Ravelo, Sampaloc C.c Oscar Manzon, Tatalon C.c. Buboy Calderon, Tondo C.c Boy Duran, Talipapa C.c Cresente Santos, Global City C.c—Elmer Ordoño, Taguig C.c—Enhard Fontanilla, Nueva Vizcaya C.c Lupo Alava and PhilChi-Ed Lim.



**TRIATHLON HOST:** The City of Bayawan in Negros Oriental plays host to next year's National Triathlon Championships and the Interclub competitions on Jan. 30, 2005. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement are Bayawan City Mayor German Saraña and Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr. in the presence of Vice Mayor Rene Gandiel, Bayawan councilors and TRAP VisMin coordinator Carlo Carrasco.

# Murakami's 3-under 68 leads Riviera field by 5


A FOUR-BIRDIE binge puts Artemio Murakami five shots ahead.

**FORMER national amateur champion Artemio Murakami fired a three-under-par 68 yesterday to take a five-stroke lead over Marvin Dumandan at the start of the third Riviera Amateur golf championship at Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite yesterday.**

Murakami leaned on a four-birdie string from No. 7 to jump-start his bid in the annual event sponsored by Pacsports and DHL. He could have actually taken a six-shot cushion if not for a bogey on the 18th hole of the hazard-laden par-71 layout.

Still, Murakami's 33-35 card outclassed the star-studded field, including Dumandan, who bogeyed three of the last six holes on the way to a 73, and Juvic Pagunsan who struggled with a 74.

Pagunsan, fancied to rule this event which also serves as a tuneup for the members of the national team seeing action in next month's World Amateurs in Puerto Rico, is in joint third with unheralded Omar Dungca and Jay Bayron.

Pagunsan recorded a second-place finish in the Philippine Open here this year but could not keep his game going as he bogeyed the fourth and 12th holes and dropped two more shots on the tricky par-4 ninth.

Ray Sangil and Rufino Bayron stood at 75.

A separate 36-hole Championship II division is set to start tomorrow along with the classes A (handicaps 4.8-9), B (9.1-15), both at Langer, and C (15.1-21.1) at Couples.

Senior players are bracketed in two classes, with the 55-64 group playing on Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Langer and the 65-and-above group teeing off for honors today and on Friday at Couples.

## Theresian Cup benefit golf slated

THE HIGH School batch of 1980 of St. Theresa's College of Manila will stage the 2nd Theresian Golf Cup at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club on Oct. 15. Proceeds of the tournament will go to the The Mother Redempta Fund, which lent support to the victims of the flooding in Baguio and of other natural calamities. For inquiries, call Chris Sibug at 723-7025.

star group of cinemas movie guide
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Krisanta
Resident Evil 2
Feng Shui

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
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Bourne Supremacy
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Resident Evil 2
Raising Helen

starmall LAS PINAS
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The Village
Princess Diaries 2

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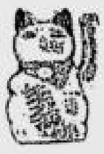
## One of these is proven to increase sales 82% of the time.

### The Battery-powered Cat



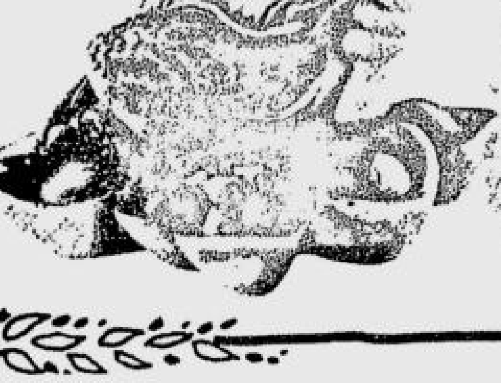
When it comes to growing revenues, many Japanese swear by the performance of a robotic-limbed cat named Maneki-Neko. The swinging paw is said to attract customers and great wealth. Although it is not known if getting your promo girls to mimic this action will help.

### The Thai Elephant

Keeping this on the front door purportedly lends your business strength and power. Elephants are considered so lucky in Thailand that some believe walking under a pachyderm's body will result in great fortune. It's not without risk though. One scientist attempting to prove this phenomenon was unceremoniously sat on.

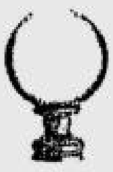
### The Three-Legged Frog

You can find many business people in China who put great faith in a brass frog with a coin sticking out of its mouth. The mythical amphibian is said to attract great profit to those who use it. But be sure to have the frog face inwards from the door, or you could find the money going out the wrong way.



### The Gold-hunting Duwende

This model of a native Filipino dwarf was around long before Tolkien. Its enchanted powers can help find gold and other buried treasure. And are believed by some to help unearth potential business acquisitions. Best kept hidden so as not to scare off visitors.

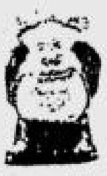


### The Quartz Crystal Ball

This slightly smokey amber globe is hailed since the medieval times to radiate energies of money, magic and power. If you want to move up your sharepoints put this on your desk. (Also makes a very good paperweight.)

### The Brass Horse Shoe

Scottish folklore has it that the devil asked a blacksmith to shoe his hoof. He made it hurt so much that the devil promised to keep out of places with horseshoes. Throwing one over your shoulder is said to bring wealth too, but make sure you don't hit anyone or you could be facing a costly lawsuit.



### The Buddha's Tummy

If the laughing Buddha is what appeals to you, have a go at rubbing his big, auspicious tummy. This tactile act supposedly brings great wealth and a lot of happiness. (Particularly to the manufacturers of plastic Buddha figurines.)

### The Ancient Coins

They say one of the most effective ways to attract money and revenues is tying five Chinese coins together with a red thread and tape them on any keeper of wealth. Taping them on the head of your Finance Officer may, however, only attract trouble.

### The Fish

Said to bring blessings in times of financial crisis, the pisces is a revered symbol in Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism alike. Coming from three major religions, it must do you some good. Best when worn close to the body. Although ideally in symbolic rather than in fresh form.

### The Lion

Crafted in Gold, Silver or Bronze. And often held over the heads of advertising creative teams on a large 'stage.' However research over a 15-year period has conclusively shown that 82% of advertisements that win recognition at Cannes, meet or exceed their business objectives by up to 400 percent. This naturally has been proven to build valuable brands for their owners.

### The Cannes CEO Forum

Unfortunately, getting a Cannes Lion doesn't happen overnight. But you can start early. Attend the Cannes CEO Forum on September 30 from 8 to 10 am at Greenbelt 3 myCinema. Limited number of slots are available so beat your competition to it. Call 897 8808 loc. 261 look for Hazel Gonzales for reservations.

### The Anting-anting handkechief

So as not to forget, we recommend you fold this ad carefully, wrap it in red cloth and keep it close to you at all times. This Philippine talisman with built-in mystic incantation will bring you and your business great prosperity. Especially if you remember to open it before Thursday morning.

Lovemall!

GLOBE TELECOM

The corporate logo. Brings good fortune and prosperity to those when included in pro-bono advertising. Particularly beneficial to sponsors who receive recognition and fame. Does not however make an ad more likely to win an award.

CANNESLIONS manila

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| 4 | FENG SHUI |
| 5 | HEAVEN'S POND |
| 6 | THE NOTEBOOK |
| 7 | 13 GOING 30 |

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc. Another retail innovation.

# Mortal bombing, plus hotel and other boob-tube booboos

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

'I'll be turning into a new leaf'

HOST: Which is the better gender, male or female?

Guest: As a woman, men is considered the superior part, but I think so that women are considered as equal!

(Ah, please repeat?)

* * *

Host: What is your evaluation of the recent polls?

Guest: As expected, the election is not as violent as expected.

(So many expectations!)

* * *

Host: Congratulations to our winner!

Guest: Thank you!

Host: Will you tell him about the prize he has won?

Co-host: Of course! For winning our quiz, you have won a two-night for two accommodation at a plus hotel!

(Thank you—I think!)

* * *

Host: What is the latest news from the war front?

Guest: Our last report, there was a heavy mortal bombing!

(*Ay*, mortal bombing!)

* * *

Host: What have you learned from your recent personal problems?

Guest: To be more responsible.

Host: So, you're going to work harder at saving your marriage?

Guest: Definitely. I'll be turning into a new leaf.

(Hey, that's quite a trick!)

* * *

Host: Why are you recommending your new movie to our viewers?

Guest: Because of its message *na may maraming* moral lesson!

(Message *na*, moral lesson *pa*?)

* * *

Host: What have you learned about life?

Guest: You must not live just for yourself, you must live for your other, too.

(My other... what?)

* * *

Host: How can you project your best personality in this talent contest?

Guest: My best personality to project is my being a good personality with a good humor.

(Good for you!)

* * *

Host: Doc, we have a caller who is asking what he should do about the bruise he got on his face three days ago. Should he go to the hospital?

Guest: No, no. *Kung* three days *pa lang, lagyan lang niya ng* ice bucket.

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: What did the suspect do when he was charged in court this morning?

Field reporter: He played guilty.

(One man's pleaded is another man's played!)

## Japanese film fest

THE 2004 EIGA Sai festival of contemporary Japanese films moves to the CCP's Dream Theater from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3. The films featured include:

"Waterboys"—A comedy about a group of boys who join a synchronized swimming team

"The Twilight Samurai"—About a low-level samurai family headed by a widower who's raising two daughters and a senile mother

"Hush!"—Two gay men fall in love. Then a woman appears and proposes that they conceive a child together. They reach a point where they must decide what family means, and how they choose to live their lives.

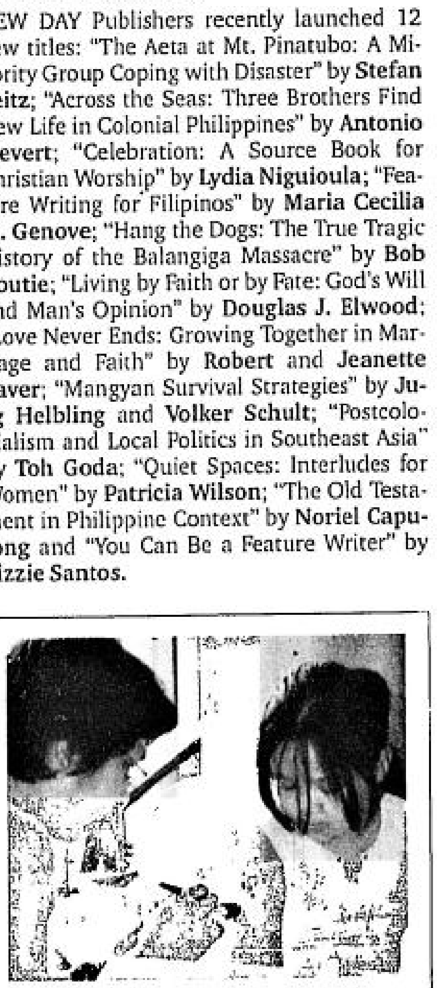
"Juvenile"—Young boys discover a pocket-sized metallic object that talks and can travel through time. Although inspired by "E.T.," the film goes into a different direction involving a puppy-love triangle, and action evidently meant to mimic video games.

"Don't Look Back"—Two 10-year-old boys engage in all kinds of mischief together. In contrast, the brutality of life almost imperceptibly penetrates the film.

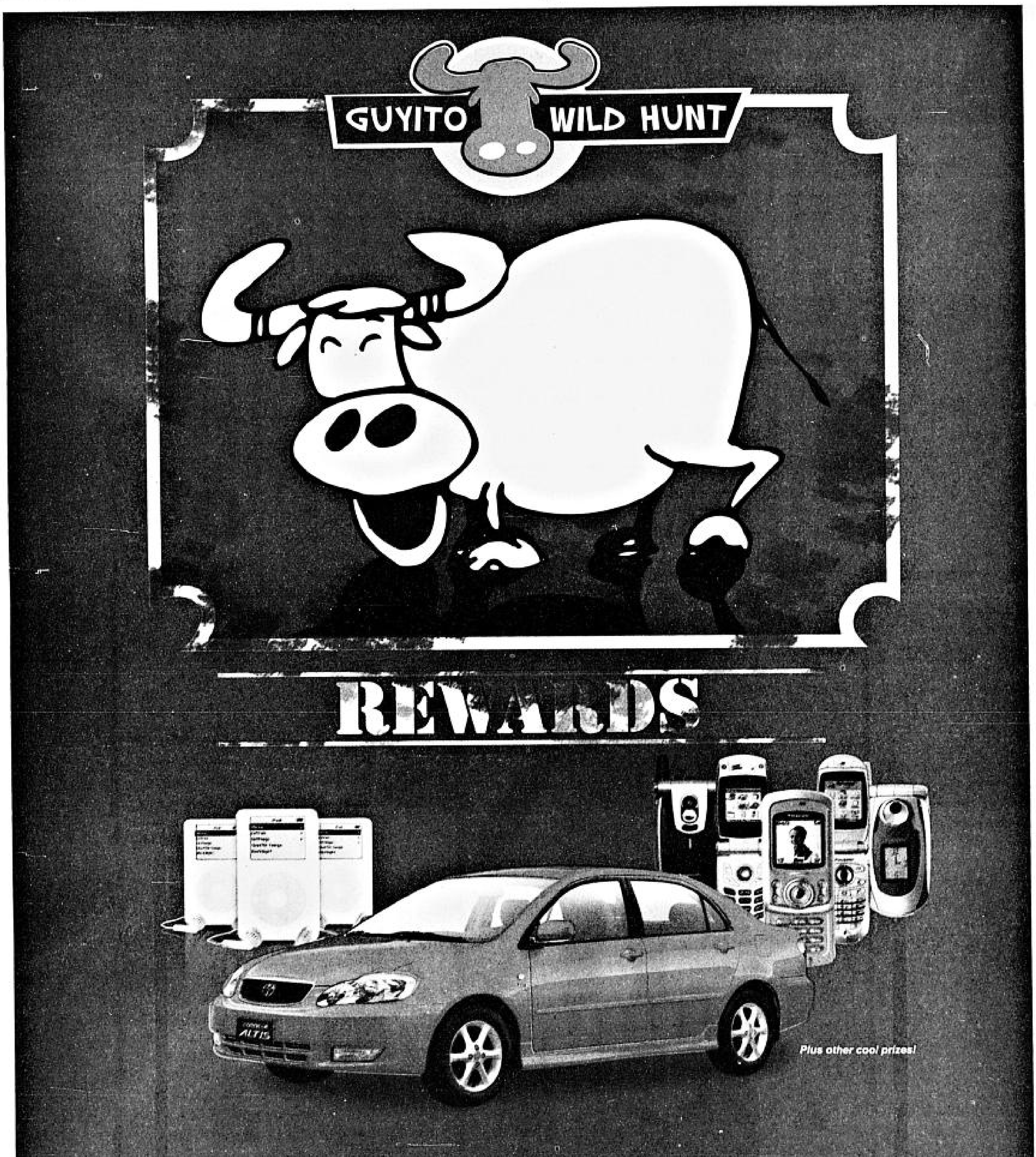
"Give It All"—An academic failure who's unlucky in love feels adrift until she takes up oaring and decides to form an all-woman rowing team.

## 12 books launched

NEW DAY Publishers recently launched 12 new titles: "The Aeta at Mt. Pinatubo: A Minority Group Coping with Disaster" by **Stefan Seitz**; "Across the Seas: Three Brothers Find New Life in Colonial Philippines" by **Antonio Sievert**; "Celebration: A Source Book for Christian Worship" by **Lydia Niguioula**; "Feature Writing for Filipinos" by **Maria Cecilia M. Genove**; "Hang the Dogs: The True Tragic History of the Balangiga Massacre" by **Bob Coutie**; "Living by Faith or by Fate: God's Will and Man's Opinion" by **Douglas J. Elwood**; "Love Never Ends: Growing Together in Marriage and Faith" by **Robert** and **Jeanette Laver**; "Mangyan Survival Strategies" by **Jurg Helbling** and **Volker Schult**; "Postcolonialism and Local Politics in Southeast Asia" by **Toh Goda**; "Quiet Spaces: Interludes for Women" by **Patricia Wilson**; "The Old Testament in Philippine Context" by **Noriel Capulong** and "You Can Be a Feature Writer" by **Lizzie Santos**.



**AYALA CINEMA TREATS**
**Ayala Cinemas recently presented "13 Going on 30," a feel-good comedy about the joys and pains of growing up, starring "Alias" star Jennifer Garner. As a treat for those who watched the hilarious movie at Ayala Cinemas, a special family day was held simultaneously at the theater lobbies of Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 and the Ayala Alabang Town Center. Moviegoers received freebies like flashy glitter tattoos, like the one the young moviegoer is getting above, and beaded bracelets. This is Ayala Cinemas' way of adding fun and excitement to every movie-watching experience.**



The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of Inquirer everyday. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates its 19th anniversary. Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

**Prizes** (One winner per item)

**Grand Prize**
Toyota Altis 1.6J M/T

**MONTHLY DRAW**

**October Draw**
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Finepix a202
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Canon A70 Digicam
20 GB iPod

**November Draw**
20 GB iPod
HP dj450 Portable Printer
Olympus MJU400
Fujipix f402
Epson Printer
Panasonic X400
Motorola MPX 200
Motorola C380

**Consolation**
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IPAQ
Olympus 400
Finepix f401
Epson Printer
Panasonic X500
Panasonic X700
Blackberry 7230
Canon A70 Digicam
Motorola E398
Motorola C650
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Motorola C650
Panasonic X300
Palm Zire 31
Epson CX5300 Printer
Canon A70 Digicam

**PROMO MECHANICS:**

a) Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.

b) Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.

c) Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.

d) There are two ways to send entries:
1. Mail to:
Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo
c/o PDI Building Don Chino Roces Avenue,
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
2. Drop in drop boxes located at the following:
Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
Glorietta mall
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
Greenbelt 1 Mall
Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
Alabang Town Center Mall
Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
Ayala Center Cebu Mall
Ayala Center Cebu Cinema Lobby
Netopia (all branches)
LBC (all branches)

e) For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.

f) Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed-in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.

g) A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.

h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.

i) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

j) For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897-8808 loc 237.

k) Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.

l) All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
(1) Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
(2) Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.
(3) Representative's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative)

m) All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.

n) All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

**PROMO EXCLUSIONS:**

All employees of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Harrison Communications and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.

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Per DTI Permit No. 2147, Series of 2004.

# No one can dictate to us . . .

From page A32

*nga. Binubog ko kasi.*"

Lifetime achievement awardee Nora Aunor is on a US tour with Kuh Ledesma. Aunor's daughter Lotlot de Leon did not make it to the AFP Theater in time to accept her mom's trophy.

Michael V, best performance in a comedy gag show for "Bubble Gang," and Raymond Bagatsing, best supporting actor in a drama series for "Narito ang Puso Ko," were also absent.

Zsa Zsa Padilla was awarded best female host in a musical/variety program.

## Ogie in tears

Singer/songwriter Ogie Alcasid won as best male host for "SOP" on GMA 7. "To be nominated along with the likes of Vic Sotto, Joey de Leon and Gary Valenciano is already an honor, but to win the award is a humbling experience," a tearful Alcasid said in accepting the award. "This is a job I truly love."

The awards show started at 7:30 p.m. with "StarStruck" Final Four—Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, Yasmien Kurdi and Rainier Castillo—doing the opening number.

Toward the middle of the show, Geneva Cruz and Franco Laurel sang a duet. Ogie also sang, as did Janno Gibbs and Jolina Magdangal.

To close the show, Nyoy Volante, Karylle and Kyla sang a medley of theme songs.

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PG-13

3 RESIDENT EVIL
10:30, 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 11:00
R-13

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| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
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| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | TAKAW TINGIN |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

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| CINEMA-6 | THE TERMINAL |
| CINEMA-7 | MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL (RE-ISSUE) |
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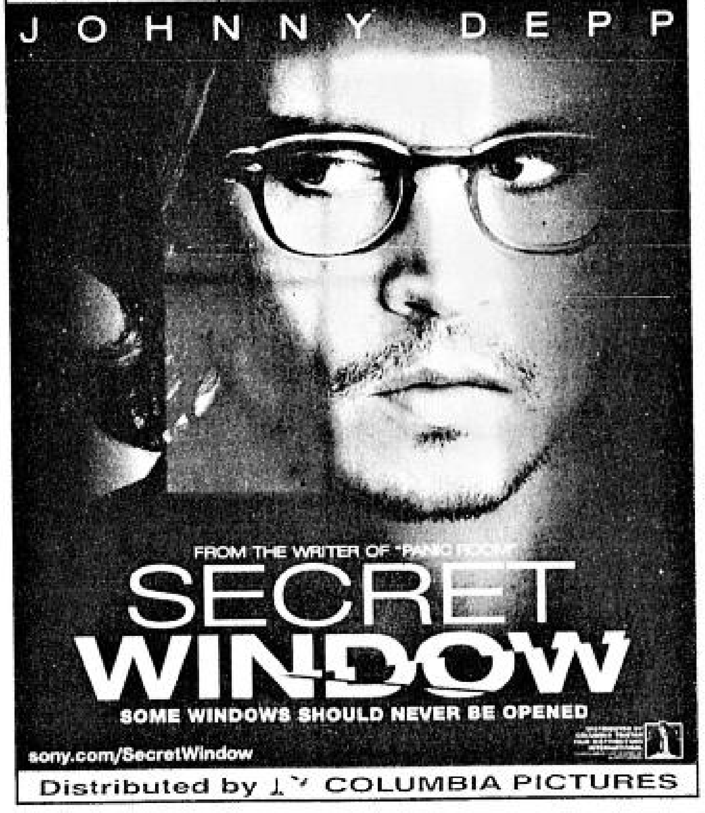

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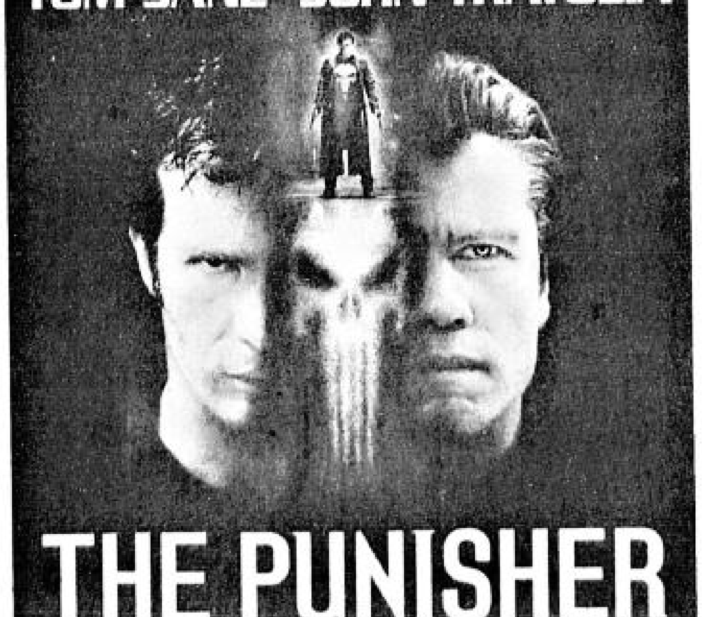

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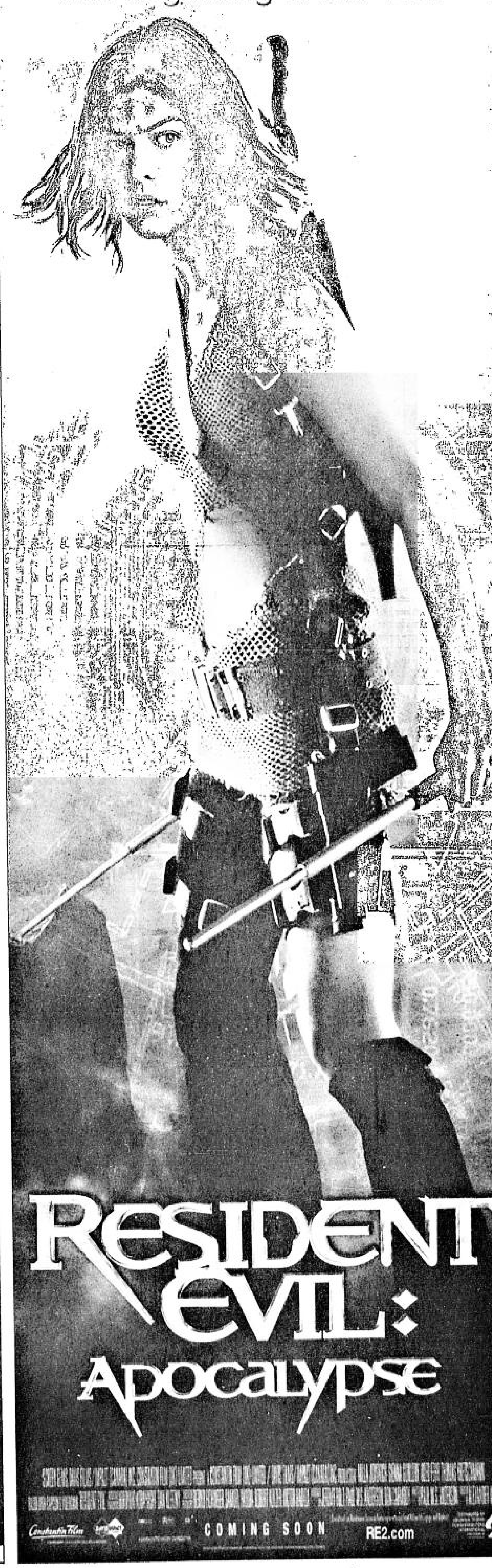

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# No one can dictate to us, says new award-giving body

By Marinel R. Cruz

"WE WERE very objective. We chose only the best."

The overall chair of the Entertainment Press Society (EnPress), Jun Nardo, was referring to the new group's choice of winners in the first Golden Screen for Entertainment TV awards last Saturday night.

"No one can dictate to us because none of us is identified with any of the networks," said Nardo.

GMA Network, the "Kapuso" network, won 19 of the 28 awards that night. Its rival, ABS-CBN or the "Kapamilya" network, went home with only 10 awards, including the best musical/variety program that its "ASAP Mania" shared with GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga!"

"It's obvious that the fight was between GMA 7 and Channel 2 because they are the most prominent," Nardo explained, adding that EnPress also considered the shows on ABC 5, IBC 13, NBN 4 and RPN 9.

"We'll see if ABS-CBN changes its programming next year," Nardo told INQUIRER Entertainment in a telephone interview last Monday.

Of the shows on the other channels, only ABC 5's "The Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel," its host Ariel Villasanta and director Aleah Aliporo were nominated.

THE END. (From left) Karylle, Nyoy Volante and Ciara Sotto perform the closing number

According to Nardo, EnPress decided to limit the categories to entertainment shows and excluded news and current affairs programs. "Based on our observations, trouble starts when these programs are included," he claimed. "Let other award-giving bodies do that (include news and current affairs programs)."

EnPress, a breakaway group from the Philippine Movie Press Club, was formed last December 2003. "This group was organized after we realized that we were part of a group that didn't believe in the spirit of fair play and honesty," Golden Screen Awards executive committee chair Ruel Mendoza said in a statement in the souvenir program for the awards show.

The disagreements between the two groups came to a head in October 2003 after three former PMPC presidents questioned the results of the 2003 Star Awards for Television.

Last August, the 30-member EnPress started requesting the networks to submit the "best episodes" of their shows and the "best performances" of their talents. The screening was done three times a week and ended in the first week of September, Nardo said.

"There were no major setbacks," he said. "The networks were very cooperative. We're also very thankful that almost all of the stars we invited came, considering that we were doing this for the first time."

## Absent winners

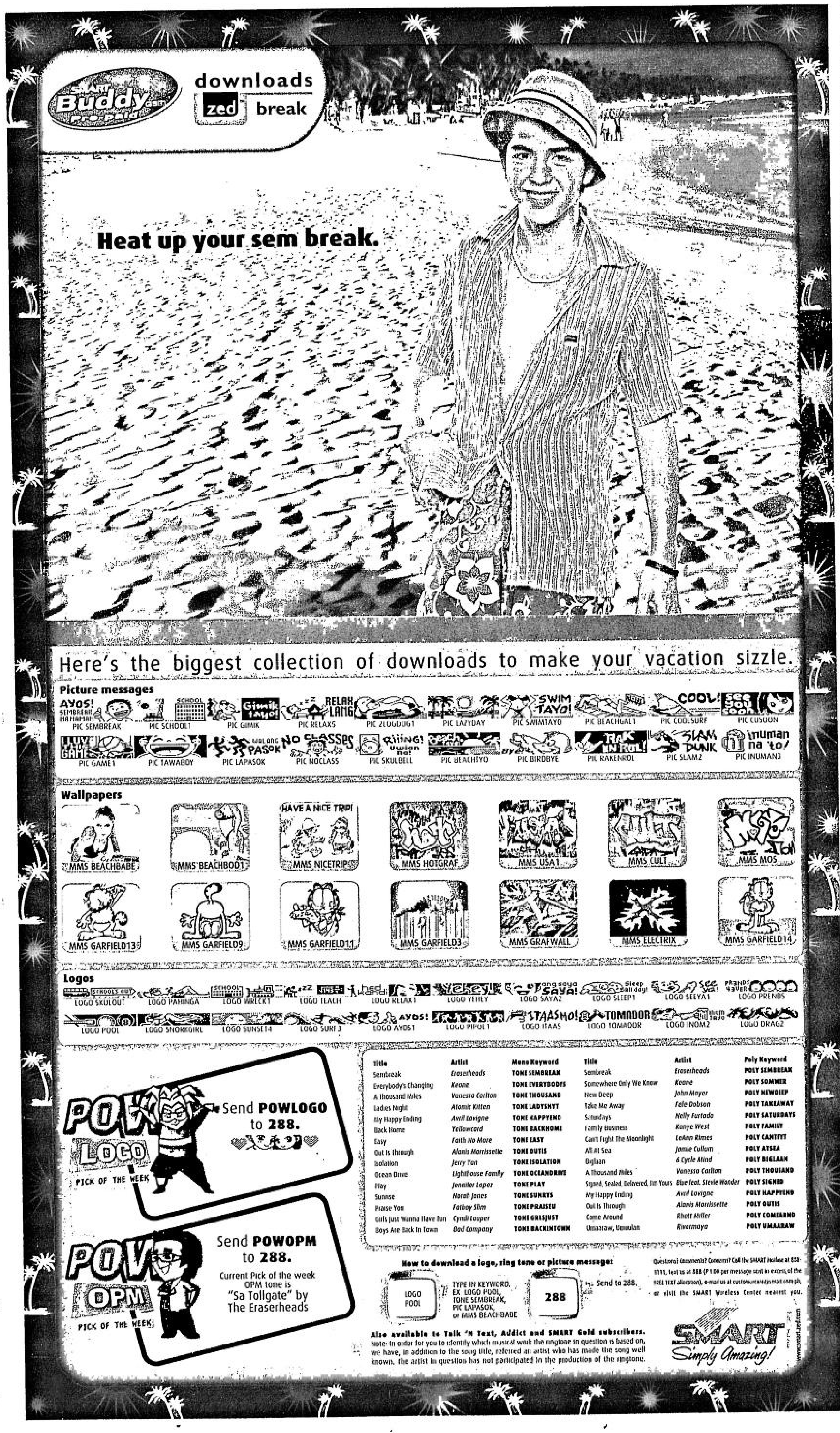
Saturday night, Vic Sotto, the new group's choice for best actor in a comedy series for "Daddy Di Do Du" on GMA 7, was not feeling well, according to friend and co-host Joey de Leon.

De Leon, one of the three recipients of the Helen Vela lifetime achievement awards, accepted Sotto's award in his behalf. When he asked "Vic's wife" to go up the stage, singer/comedian Allan K did.

"In behalf of my husband, thank you," said Allan K. "*Nasa kama na po si Vic. Nagpapahi-*

NO ONE/ A31

PIOLO Pascual accepts award for outstanding lead actor in a drama series for "Mangarap Ka," presented by Albert Martinez (background).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| Out Is Through | Alanis Morissette | TONE OUTIS | All At Sea | Jamie Cullum | POLY ATSEA |
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| Ocean Drive | Lighthouse Family | TONE OCEANDRIVE | A Thousand Miles | Vanessa Carlton | POLY THOUSAND |
| Play | Jennifer Lopez | TONE PLAY | Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours | Blue feat. Stevie Wonder | POLY SIGNED |
| Sunrise | Norah Jones | TONE SUNRYS | My Happy Ending | Avril Lavigne | POLY HAPPYEND |
| Praise You | Fatboy Slim | TONE PRAISEU | Out Is Through | Alanis Morissette | POLY OUTIS |
| Girls Just Wanna Have Fun | Cyndi Lauper | TONE GRLSJUST | Come Around | Rhett Miller | POLY COMEARND |
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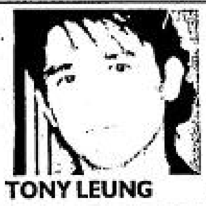


TONY LEUNG

**De Niro praises, invites HK star /A2-4**

# Pinoy gives up Disney, comes home to produce kiddie shows

## *He brings home wealth of knowledge in international TV production*

**By Peachy Vibal-Guioguio**
*Contributor*

WHILE many young Filipinos look forward to leaving the country to try their luck abroad, Perci Intalan is doing the reverse by coming home.

Five years ago, Intalan, then 26, packed his bags, left his family and loved ones and took the risk of living in a foreign country to seek that proverbial green pasture. But unlike many Filipinos who have set their sights on staying away for good, Intalan decided to come back. And not only is back for good, he also brought home a wealth of knowledge in international TV production which he says he plans to share with his colleagues in the local television industry.

For five years, Intalan was based in Hong Kong, where he was an executive producer and manager at Walt Disney Television International Asia Pacific, but he also traveled to several countries to do production work.

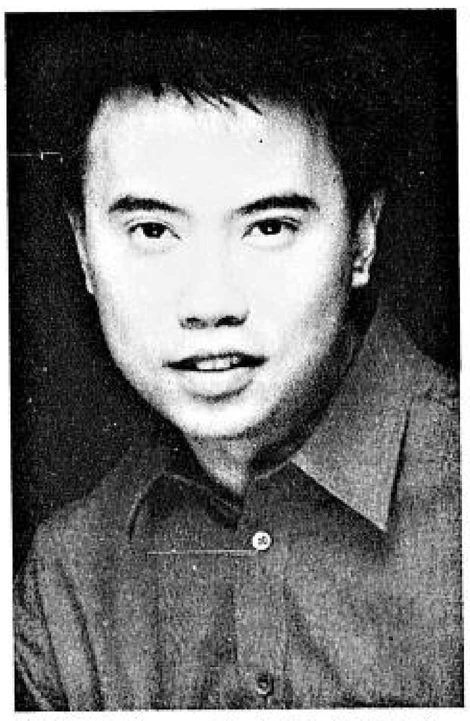
"From the outside, it looks like a very glamorous job," says Intalan. "But living off a suitcase can be pretty much exhausting."

### Different nationalities

At Disney, one of his biggest projects was producing "Disney Playhouse." Production teams from countries like France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan flew to Madrid to each film their materials for a month. As the programs' executive producer for Australia and the Asia Pacific, Intalan had to harness a production team of people of different nationalities to mount the show.

"From Hong Kong, I flew to Australia, gathered a team, oversaw the production, brought a handful of the team members to Madrid to shoot, went back to Australia, edited the material and made sure everything was in order before it was finally aired in Australia," says Intalan.

He likens the experience to that of Peter Jackson, Oscar award-winning director of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy who said in an interview that he had to fly from New Zealand to Los Angeles and back to edit the rushes of his movie. "I can actually relate," says Intalan with a smile.



INTALAN. "I can relate to Peter Jackson."

"'Disney Playhouse' was a totally different way of doing television," he says. "Everything was so methodical."

They even hired advisers and psychologists to ensure that they did not go beyond the limits of what is advisable for young kids to watch. When they shot some parts of the show in Manila, one of the advisers that Intalan tapped was child psychologist Fenny de los Reyes.

### His heart's desire

While doing "Disney Playhouse," Intalan realized the value and power of TV and its impact on the growth and development of children. "It was an eye-opener for me," he says, adding that he wants to do a similar program for Filipino children.

In Australia, according to him, certain hours of TV programming are required to be devoted to children's programs. "And these should be locally produced shows and not just animés and cartoons," he says.

Finally, Intalan decided to pull up stakes and head for home, leaving a high-profile and lucrative executive job.

But it wasn't really such a tough decision, says the man who followed his heart's desire.

Back in Manila, Intalan has joined the reenergized ABC 5 TV network, which now has new owners and management. At 31, Intalan is one of the youngest to hold the position of vice president of a major TV station.

As head of ABC 5's merchandising division, he promotes the network's programs in strategic ways.

"We're a new player in the industry and I must admit that we are experiencing some birth pains," he says. The beauty of this, he adds, is that "we are not entangled in the ratings war. At least, not yet."

### For Pinoy kids

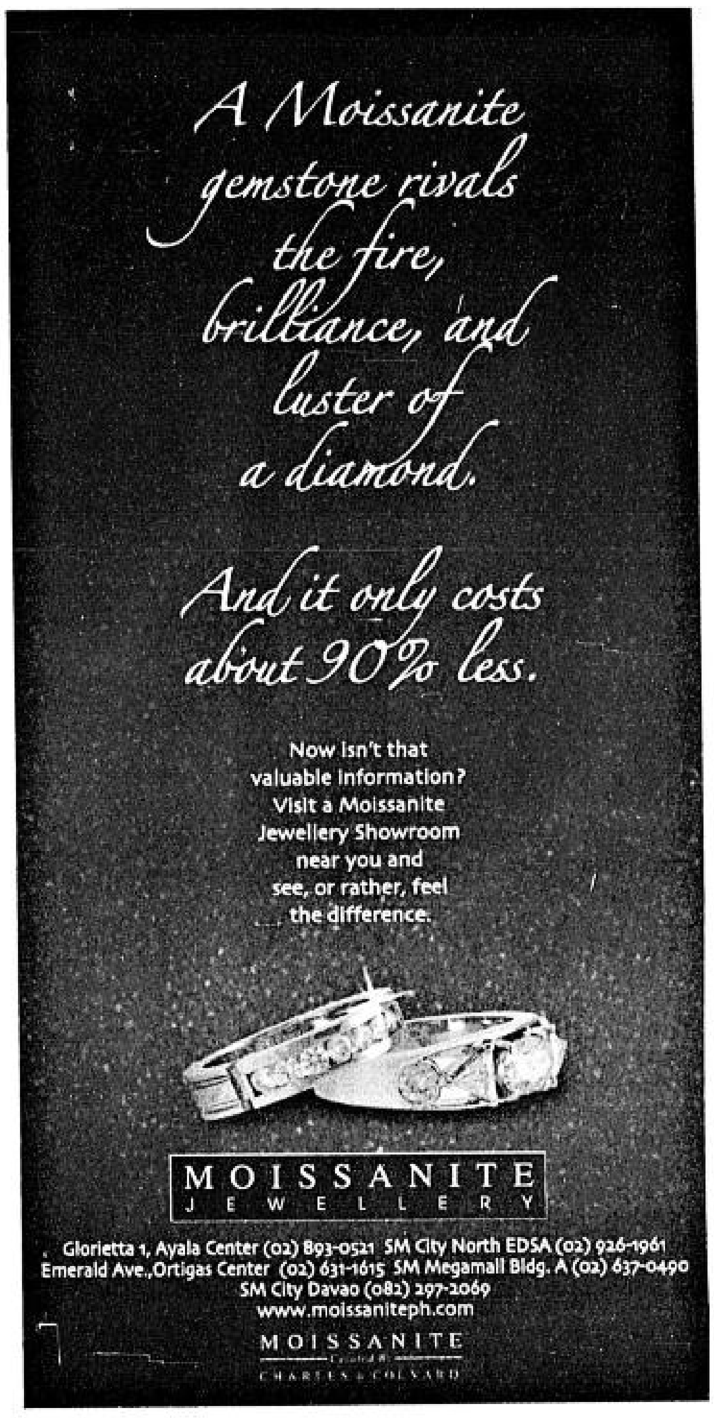
It didn't take him long to win ABC 5's approval for a program that he himself conceptualized and will be producing. Yes, the program is for Filipino children.

"Animé Ring Kaisho" has a host with whom the children can interact—someone they can show their drawings and write letters to, play games with and even text their opinions to, Intalan explains.

It also means that the animé block becomes a full show instead of just a lineup of cartoons. This format, says Intalan, is widely accepted in the UK, Australia and Japan.

"I think this is a great format because it harnesses the appeal of cartoons and gives us a chance to interact with kids and expand their horizons by showing related features, interviewing interesting personalities, etc."

Intalan's pet children's show may still be a far cry from the global productions that he used to mount for Disney, but he believes it is the first step in getting there.



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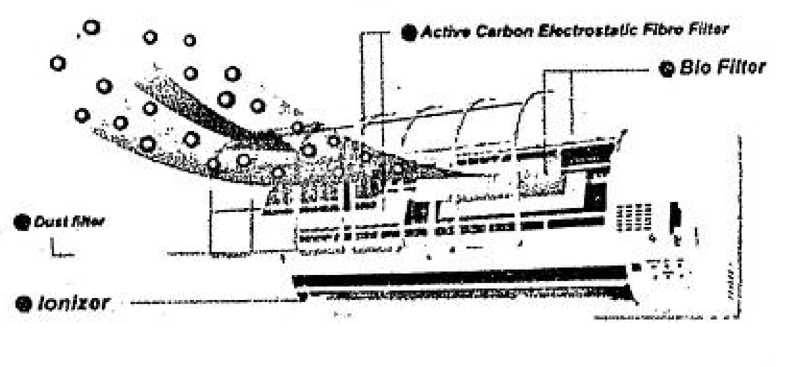

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# A beauty queen called Prince gets ready to relinquish her crown

VERY ENRICHING, Dania Prince says of her experience

**By Armin Adina**

"NO OTHER country in the world has such friendly people as the Philippines," exclaimed reigning Miss Earth Dania Prince.

Speaking very little English, the 5-foot-10 model from Honduras tried to recall how warm and accommodating the Filipinos were when she first came to the country last year to participate in the Miss Earth pageant.

"The Filipinos are very friendly, always happy and smiling," she said.

Prince returned to the country late last month to kick off this year's edition of Miss Earth. This is the pageant's fourth year and the pageant promises to be bigger with more than 70 beauties from around the world expected to compete.

The pageant focuses on the conservation of nature. Last year, it attracted global attention with the participation of a representative from war-torn Afghanistan.

Latin American countries have been prominently placing in international pageants. But Honduras had been missing the cut until Prince's win in Manila last year. Her victory was very special to her countrymen because it was the first time a Honduran brought home an international title.

"It was very emotional, I was both excited and happy," said Prince of her coronation, the moment still fresh in her memory.

But her triumph last year was no surprise, especially to the other women in the competition. Before the coronation, some girls were asked who they wanted to win aside from themselves. Most chose the Honduran charmer because they found her "beautiful and smart."

It was only during her interview with INQUIRER Entertainment that Prince learned of this.

Prince also participated in the Miss Universe pageant in 1998, when she was barely 20. Though she did not place there, her experience helped her improve herself. In 1999, she became a finalist in the Top Model of the World contest. That same year, she was also crowned Miss America Latina and Reina Internacional del Pacifico.

Dania expressed her pride in being a pageant veteran: "Every time, you learn something new from different people of different cultures," she said. "It's very enriching."

Joining, and winning, pageants has brought her a lot of opportunities, including modeling and other job offers. When she flies back to Honduras after relinquishing the Miss Earth title, Prince will resume work on some assignments that were temporarily shelved because of her duties as Miss Earth.

She will also finish a project in Miami, a calendar to be called "Honduras 2."

Between now and Oct. 24, when she turns over her crown to the new Miss Earth, Prince will again tour the Philippines with the girls who are vying for the crown she is wearing. She hopes they will enjoy the competition like she did last year. She advises them to "work for whatever you wish to do, but always be yourself."

To the incoming Miss Earth, Prince says, "Enjoy your reign. It's once in a lifetime, so you will carry this memory forever."

Dania Prince herself will forever remember her own reign, especially the time she spent with schoolchildren in Honduras, telling them about preserving the environment.

"It feels good to know that you are doing something good," she said.

# Tower Records opens 6th branch at SM City

**SHOW TIME**

TOWER Records staged a free concert featuring 16 bands to launch one grand music store at SM City North Edsa in Quezon City.

The free concert was held during the launch of the sixth Tower Records branch at SM City North Edsa.

The show featured performances by Freestyle, Paolo Santos, Sugarfree, Session Road, Sponge Cola, Sandwich, Cambio, 6 Cycle Mind, Kjwan, Artstrong, Ciudad, Thor, Sun Valley Crew, Cherry Cornflakes, Margarita and Marty McFly.

The parking lot in front of the store was jampacked with music lovers who head-banged, sang along and danced to the beat of the music.

The first Tower Records in the country opened in 1998. Another one will be opening at SM Pampanga next month.

"Our vision for Tower Records is to be the record store of choice when it comes to music and films," said Anton Ramos.

Tower Records boasts of the widest selection of international and local artists, classics and the latest DVDs and VCDs, and stylish music accessories at reasonable prices.

"Tower Records is a place where friends can come together and enjoy good music," said Ramos.

Tower Records SM City North Edsa is on the upper ground floor of the main building.

THE FREE concert performers included Margarita and Cherry of Cornflakes (above left), and Coy Placido of Session Road, with Tuesday Vargas. Getting them all together are (right) Alfredo and Precy Ramos, flanking their son Antón.

**LAWMAKERS' SPOUSES**

**SHOW TIME**

The second batch of congressional spouses led by their president, "Manay" Gina de Venecia, will be the special guests in tomorrow's edition of RPN 9's public service talk show, "Dee's Day." The show is hosted by the former press undersecretary of former President Cory Aquino, Manila Bulletin columnist Deedee M. Siytangco (second from left, standing). It is aired at 12:30 p.m. and is replayed at 1 a.m. and at 6 a.m. on Friday. With host Siytangco are (from left, seated) Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Joe de Venecia; lawyer Milen Albano, wife of Rep. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela's 1st district; stockbroker Aleli Arroyo, wife of Rep. Ignacio Arroyo of Negros Occidental's 5th district, and architect Beng Velarde, wife of Rep. Rene Velarde of Buhay party-list; (standing, from left) Rody Reyes, husband of Rep. Victoria Hernandez Reyes of Batangas' 3rd district, and Kathy Santiago, wife of Rep. Joseph Santiago of the lone district of Catanduanes.

TIMES A-CHANGIN'. Dylan (performing in the Newport Folk Festival in 2002) is proud of his memoirs although he did not enjoy writing them

# *Bob Dylan: Who, me, 'conscience' of the '60s?*

**SHOW STOPPER**

LOS ANGELES—Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan said he didn't find the process of writing his new memoirs all "that splendid," according to an article in the latest issue of Newsweek magazine.

"I'm used to writing songs," the 63-year-old creator of such '60s hits as "Like A Rolling Stone" told the magazine. "And songs—I can fill 'em up with symbolism and metaphors. When you write a book like this, you gotta tell the truth, and it can't be misinterpreted."

Dylan said he is proud of his book, "Chronicles, Vol. 1," published by Simon & Schuster and excerpted in the magazine along with a rare interview. The book goes on sale next week.

Dylan did not enjoy the process of writing it.

"Lest we forget, while you're writing, you're not living," he said. "What do they call it? Splendid isolation? I don't find it that splendid."

Dylan banged out his book over three years on a manual typewriter. In it, he describes how it felt to be called the conscience of the '60s generation.

"That was funny," he said. "All I'd ever done was sing songs that were dead straight and expressed powerful new realities. I had very little in common with and knew even less about a generation that I was supposed to be the voice of."

He writes that marrying and having children changed his life. "I found myself (at my home) in Woodstock, vulnerable and with a family to protect," he said. "If you looked in the press, though, you saw me being portrayed as anything but that."

Dylan also took issue with the way some critics interpreted his lyrics.

"I was sick of the way my lyrics had been extrapolated, their meanings subverted into polemic and that I had been anointed as the Big Bubba of Rebellion," he said. *Reuters*

# 1st Ogie Cup at Southwoods

SINGER-COMPOSER Ogie Alcasid presents "Ogie Cup," his very first celebrity golf tournament, to be held tomorrow at the Legends Course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

Among the celebrities taking part in the first Ogie Cup are Anjo Yllana, Bert de Leon, Dingdong Avanzado, Chad Borja, Gary Lising, Gerard Salonga, Jaime Fabregas, Jimmy Bondoc, John Lesaca, Kitchie Benedicto, Paolo Santos, Noel Trinidad, Rico J. Puno, Vernie Varga and Vic Sotto.

Tee-off time is 8:30-9 a.m.

The event will be capped by "Swing & Sing," a special dinner show with Ogie and his golf buddies, at the Southwoods Clubhouse.

For details, call Sharon or Rose at 633-2095 or 634-6913.

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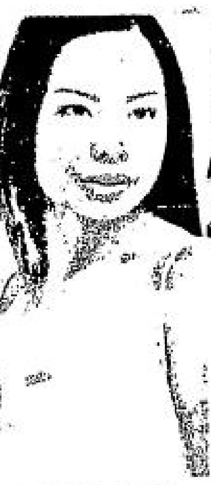

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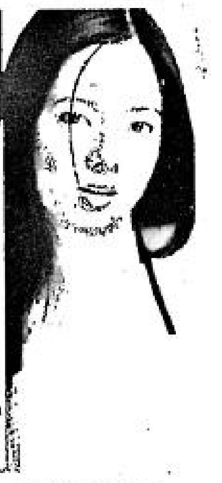

LIEZL RAMOS

# Who will be the new endorsers, stars from 'Circle of 10?'

THE "CIRCLE of 10 Image Model Search" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2, on "ABC Treats" starting at 10:30 p.m.

Now on its fifth year, the "Circle of 10 Image Model Search" is spearheaded by I Entertainment and is one of the richest sources of talents for TV and print commercials, ramp modeling and show biz.

From about 1,000 applicants, only 46 finalists (23 boys and 23 girls) were chosen official candidates, who then underwent rigorous training and workshops, including team building, personality development and enhancement, acting on camera, ramp modeling and dance lessons.

This year, guest speakers and lecturers in the search included beauty queen/supermodel Abigail Arenas-de Leon, makeup expert Jing Illusorio, hair stylist Randy Florendo, PETA members Kooch Mapua and Dindo Catral, TV director Khrys Adalia, fashion director Kata Figueroa, model Karen Agustin, fashion designer Avel Bacudio, J. Walter Thompson's Judith Cabinian, photographer Tony Tan and Upstyle Modeling Agency's Rockie Caballero.

Since it started in 2000, "Circle of 10" has produced talents who have become top endorsers and celebrities, such as Karen de los Reyes, Mike Olivarez, Gemma Gatdula, Nadine Samonte, Alvin Aragon, Dion Ignacio, Rainier Castillo and Jennylyn Mercado.

# Hitmaker Christian Bautista has new single

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA. "Color Everywhere"

CHRISTIAN Bautista has a new single.

After his "The Way You Look at Me" hit the No. 1 spot in the hit charts, followed by another, top-notcher, "Hands to Heaven," Christian went on his first US concert tour.

While the handsome Star in a Million finalist is not expected to come home until mid-October, his fans can enjoy his third single, "Color Everywhere."

"The Way You Look at Me," "Hands to Heaven" and "Color Everywhere" are all from Christian's self-titled debut album, which will also be released in other key cities of Asia soon. The album, in CD and cassette formats, is distributed by Warner Music Philippines and is available in leading music stores and record bars.

**STAR IDOL SEARCH**
Rhea Cruz (center), 23, of Muntinlupa City, won the grand prize in the Star Idol Search presented by the Star Group of Malls, held at the Metropolis Star last Sept. 19. Rhea was also voted People's Choice by Metropolis shoppers. Her prizes include P15,000 cash, scholarship from the Center for Pop, accommodation at Club Panoly Boracay, a trophy, gifts from Human, Bench, Rough Rider Jeans and DCR Marketing Services. Loverine Fermino, 19, from Navotas, was first runner-up, while the lone male entry, Paul Rupretch, 15, from San Diego, California, was second runner-up. The judges were award-winning composer Dero Pedero, concert producer Arnold Vegafria, talent manager Lyn Tamayo, young actor Dustin Reyes and Star Group's property development director Pat Clemente.

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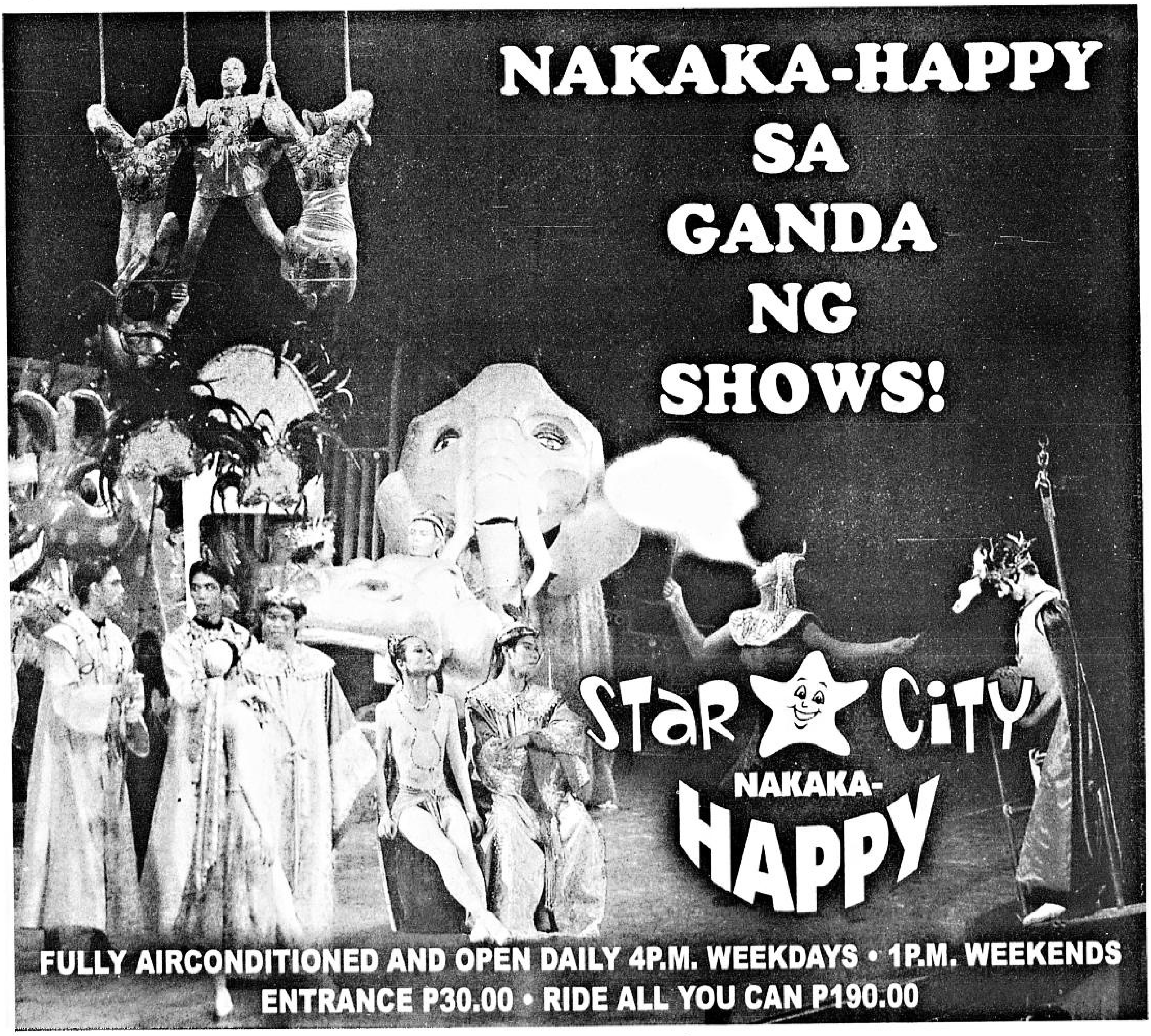

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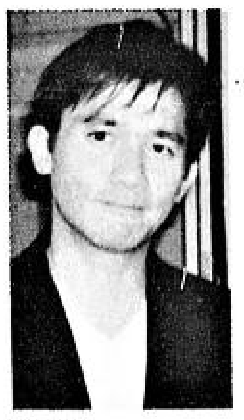
# De Niro praises, invites HK star



**LEUNG**

HONG KONG—Top Hong Kong actor Tony Leung has been singled out for praise by Hollywood megastar Robert De Niro, a press report said Monday.

The Oscar-winning De Niro has invited Leung and director Wong Kar-wai to dinner after the Italian premier of Wong's "2046" next month, according to the Chinese-language Oriental Daily News.

De Niro was said to particularly admire Leung's roles in Wong's "In the Mood for Love" which won him the Best Actor award at Cannes in 2000, and Hong Kong cop thriller "Infernal Affairs."

Leung was said to be over the moon about the dinner invitation from the iconic star of "Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas."

"He's my idol," Leung was quoted as saying. "Of course I am happy to have him see my performance in the film. I will definitely seize the opportunity to ask him advice about acting."

De Niro is the second Hollywood actor after heartthrob Brad Pitt to laud Leung's acting.

After "2046," director Wong is expected to start filming in February "The Lady From Shanghai" with award-winning actress Nicole Kidman. *AFP*

# Songwriters' Night: Share your music . . .

From page A2-5

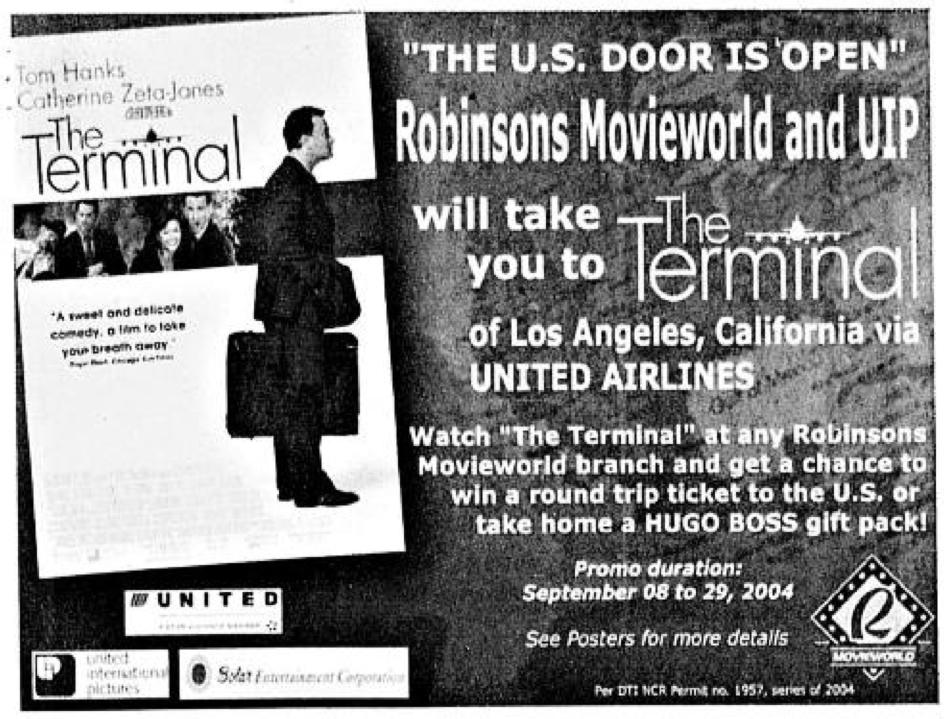
Katha also works with other organizations like the Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (Filscap), Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino (AMP) and Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM).

## Wednesdays

Katha has decided to hold Songwriters' Night every second Monday of the month at Conspiracy Garden Café and every last Wednesday in Suburbia in Malate.

"The project is starting to have legs," says De Leon. "Most of the members started to drift away from the organization since Danny Tan, Dingdong Eduque and Dodjie Simon formed it. With the Songwriters' Night, we hope to revive interest in Katha. Eventually, we want to resume giving out the Katha Awards, too."

Those interested in joining Katha or the open-microphone Songwriters' Night can text Katha at 0920-5788378 or e-mail amatsngkatha@yahoo.com:



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# Songwriters' Night: Share your music with a live audience

**By Leah C. Salterio**
*Contributor*

DE LEON

LESACA

KATHA, the organization of composers, is back.

Aside from giving out the annual Katha Awards for outstanding achievements in songwriting, performing and others, and holding "Katha Jam" for songwriters and talents, the organization has not had any other major activity. The last Katha Awards were given in 2002.

Recently, however, the new board members and officers of Katha thought of launching Songwriters' Night, an open-microphone activity that allows composers, even amateur ones, to express themselves and have their songs performed before a live audience.

"This is not a contest," explains TV director Bert de Leon, the Katha chair. "We want a venue for new songs to be bounced off to an audience. The activity is also an opportunity for songwriters, singers and musicians, both amateurs and professionals, to bond, get to know one another better, listen to and support one another's music. They can share their music and hopefully get a crack at recording."

The Katha Songwriters' Night was launched last July 5 at Conspiracy Garden Café along Visayas Avenue in Quezon City. The place was set up and is being run by established artists: Joey Ayala, Cookie Chua, Bayang Barrios, Cynthia Alexander and Mike Villegas, just to name a few.

"Louie Ocampo, who might not be comfortable performing his own composition before a live audience, can ask someone to sing it," adds De Leon. "We also invite recording executives to drop by, listen to the songs and in the process discover new talents and hear good music."

De Leon says the first Songwriters' Night had lyricists, performers and even scene-stealers making the audience at Conspiracy Garden laugh or cry.

"We had a very enthusiastic response with the launch," says De Leon. "That's why we're doing it again in a bigger venue."

The second Songwriters' Night will be held tonight at Suburbia in Malate, Manila. De Leon is also one of the owners of Suburbia.

## Uplifting the industry

In the Songwriters' Night, De Leon will be joined by other Katha officers, members and supporters such as president Trina Belamide, Butch Miraflor, Mike Villegas and John Lesaca.

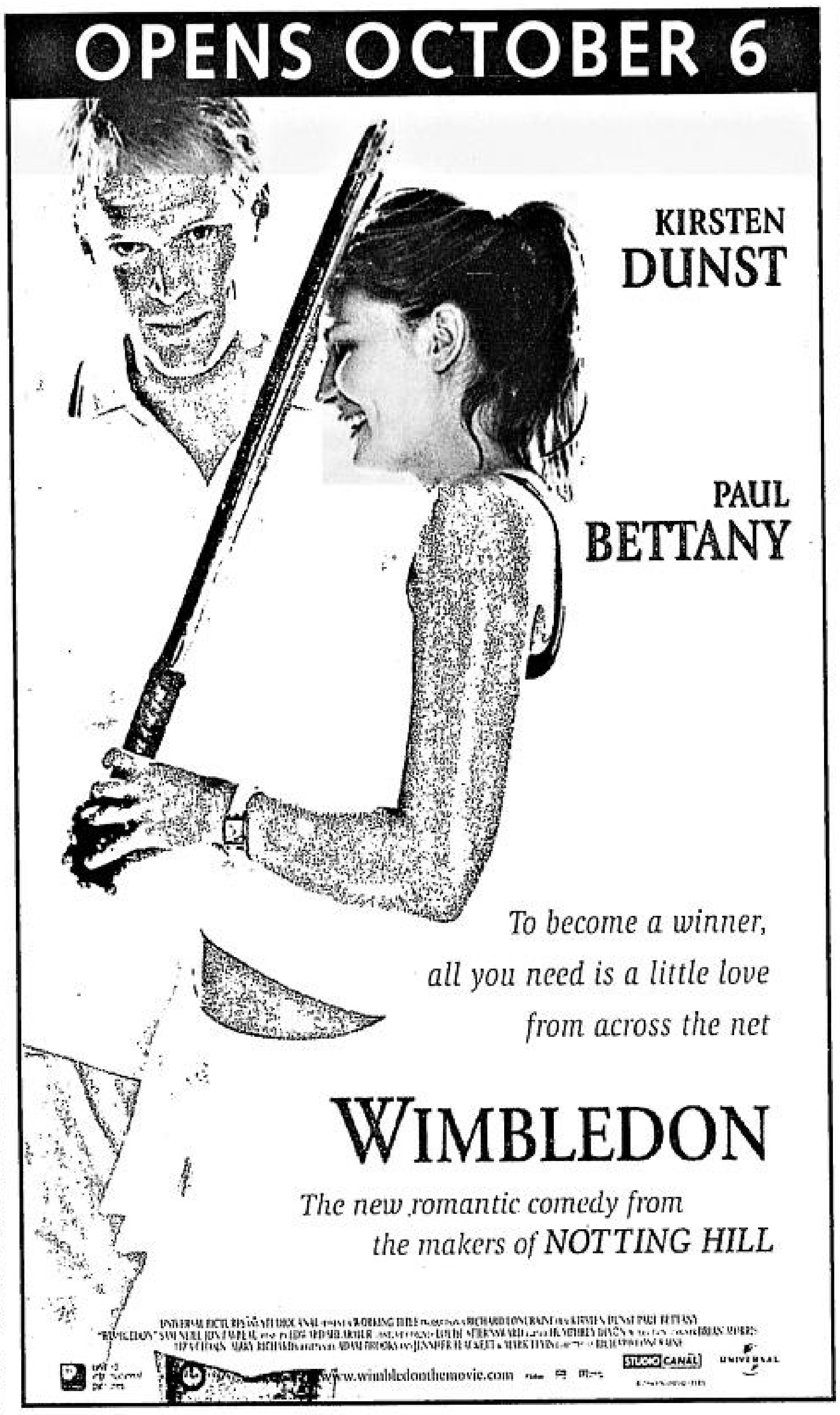
Katha's other members include Ryan Cayabyab, Jose Mari Chan, Danny Tan, Gary Granada, Jay Durias, Grace Nono, Jimmy Antiporda, Jungee Marcelo, Dodjie Simon and Jim Paredes, among others.

"With activities like this, we want to help uplift the music industry which is slowly being killed by piracy," says Lesaca. "Some people are advocating the buying of pirated foreign CDs and protecting the local. That is so wrong. Piracy in any form is a crime. How can we create more if we tolerate piracy? Can you imagine the world without music, books or movies?"

De Leon and Lesaca are also part of a new singing quartet called Area One, which performs all-Beatles tunes at Hard Rock Café in Makati City every Wednesday night. The other members of the group are Cash Manalang and Roy Marinduque. The group's name was derived from the place in the UP Diliman campus, where Lesaca and Manalang were next-door neighbors when they were growing up.

Area One will be the special guest in the concert of the British pop duo from the '60s, Chad and Jeremy, on Oct. 15 at Hard Rock Café and Oct. 16 at Aliw Theater at the CCP.

SONGWRITERS/ A2-4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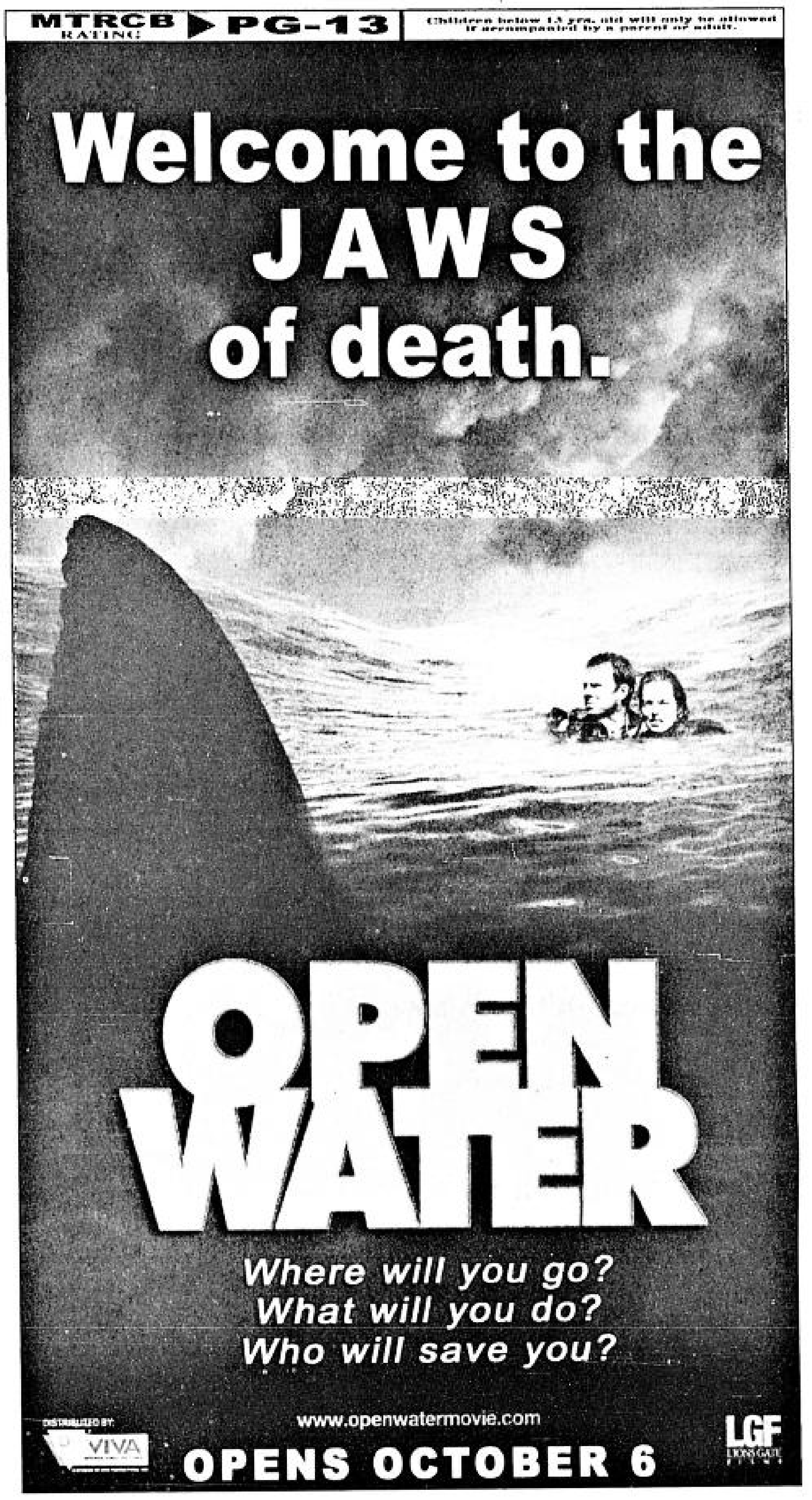
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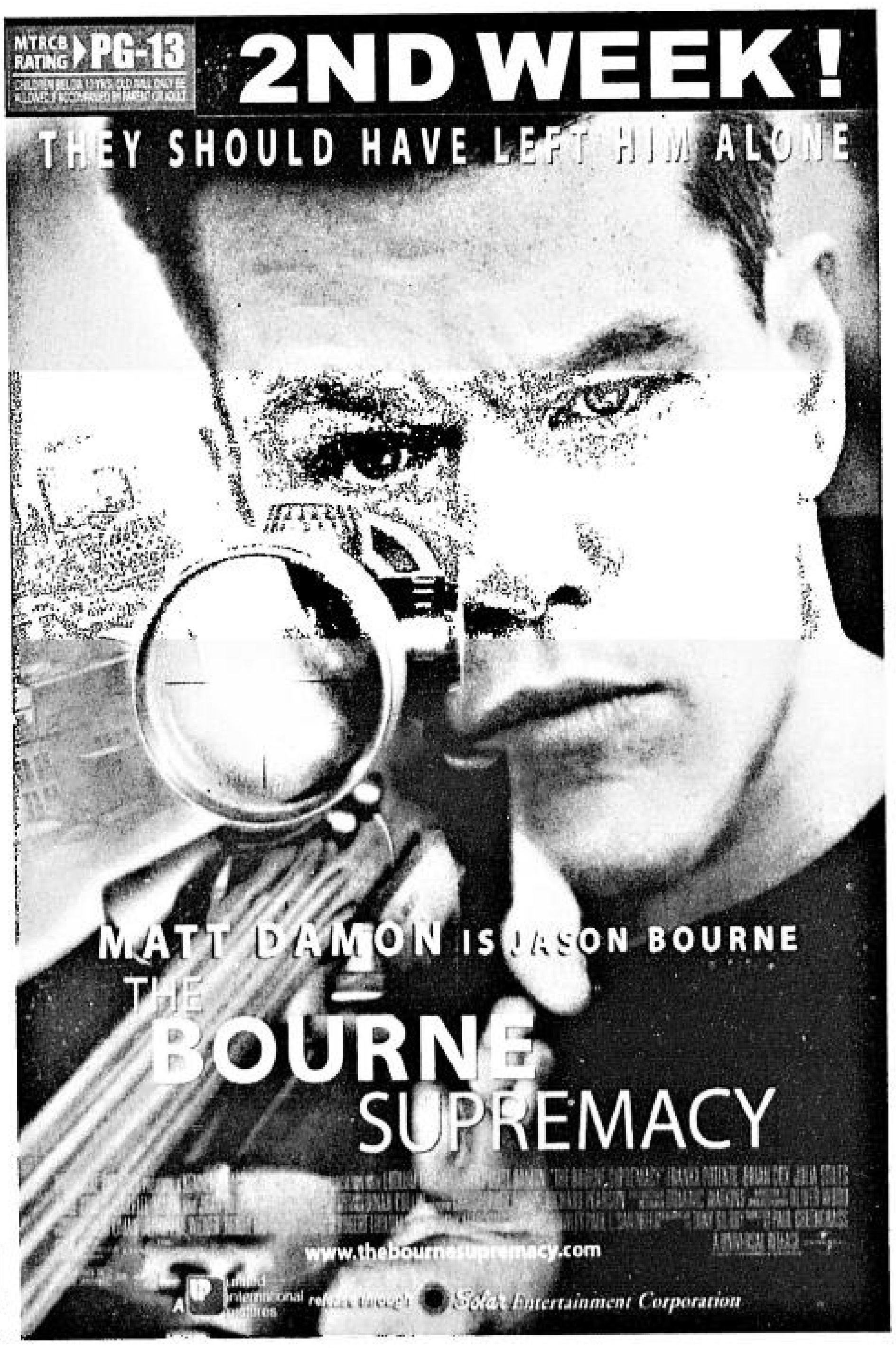
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|---|---|
| 1 | EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING |
| 2 | TAKAW TINGIN |
| 3 | SAVED |
| 4 | THE BOURNE SUPREMACY |
| 5 | FENG SHUI |

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| 1 | DODGEBALL |
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|---|---|
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| 5 | FENG SHUI |
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|---|---|
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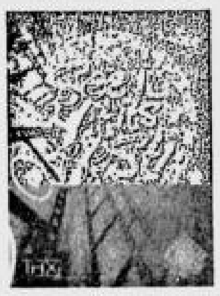

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY | 1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY | 1 FENG SHUI | GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY | 1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY |
| 2 THE TERMINAL | 2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING | 2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING | GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 | 2 THE NOTEBOOK |
| 3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING | 3 HEAVEN'S POND | GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE BOURNE ... 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 | GUARANTEED SEATS 3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30 | 3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING |
| 4 SAVED | 4 FENG SHUI | 4 SAVED | GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FENG SHUI 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 | 4 FENG SHUI |
| 5 FENG SHUI | | 5 THE NOTEBOOK | GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE TERMINAL 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 | 5 THE TERMINAL |
| | | 6 13 GOING ON 30 | | |
| | | 7 THE TERMINAL | | |

| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | |
|---|---|
| 1 | FENG SHUI 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40 |
| 2 | THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 |

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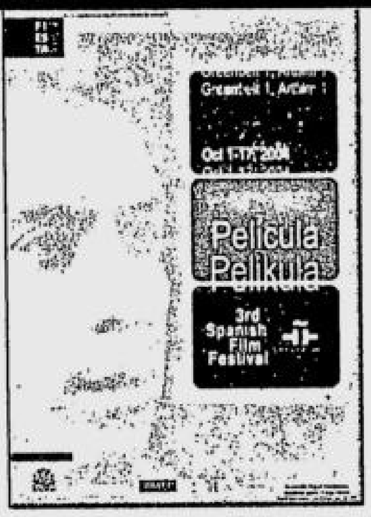

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# Tearjerker, Pinoy style

From page A2-7

to making movies like "The Believer" which received the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, "The Slaughter Rule" and "Murder by Numbers" with Sandra Bullock whom he also reportedly dated.

This morning, he seemed to be acting as the jaded Hollywood hunk as he coolly replied to questions thrown at him. Or was 10 a.m. just too early for this Hollywood star?

## Different passion

Known for doing eccentric roles, Gosling confessed that he felt "so wrong for the role." He explained, "I never really felt I could do that kind of role but I think that was one of the main attractions for me."

He said that what made the role interesting to him was his character's "crazy behavior of being able to write 365 letters to a girl."

He laughed and then added with a smirk, "Then he even builds a house for this girl whom he doesn't even know if she still exists. He is such a romantic and I am not like that."

He revealed that he has not done anything like that before because "most of the characters I have played are equally passionate but their passion is rewarded with jail time or death and not with a sense of appreciation."

He said his idea of romance is "having a great big meal and my girl rubbing my belly."

One thing he respected about his character, he pointed out, was that "he is a man of action. He shows his love for his girl not by words but by actions. And I respect that."

After being told that his chemistry with McAdams was great in the movie, Gosling emphasized, "This is Rachel's movie. She's the driver of the car and we are just her passengers."

## 'Wow!'

He narrated the first time he met her during the audition. "Most of the girls we saw kept on asking, 'So what did you think?' after they auditioned and Nick (Cassavetes) and I didn't know how to respond because both of us don't really know anything about women," he recalled, smiling.

"When Rachel auditioned, she was the only girl who didn't ask any questions. Then when she finally did her character, she did this gamut of emotions one after the other. She cried, she wiped her tears from her face, she laughed and she started rolling her cigarette. Nick and I were just dumbfounded. We said, 'Wow! We got to keep an eye on this girl.' We decided to get her."

We also ask Gosling, who will be appearing next in the Marc Forster-directed movie, "Stay," with Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts, what he thinks makes love last.

He replies with a knowing smile, "Just agree with the woman. It will save you a lot of headaches."

# Tearjerker, Pinoy style

**By Janet Susan R. Nepales**
*LA Correspondent*

RIGHT AND WRONG. Known for playing eccentric roles, Ryan Gosling thinks he's "so wrong for the role" as the romantic lead, but thinks Rachel MacAdams is perfect as the girlfriend in "The Notebook." The young characters (right) are later reunited after World War II.

LOS ANGELES—The press kit for the movie, "The Notebook," included a packet of tissues.

The tearjerker love story that stars newcomers Ryan Gosling ("The Believer," "Murder by Numbers") and Rachel McAdams ("The Hot Chick," "Mean Girls") caused even supposedly tough journalists to sniffle and grab those tissues in the screening room.

We were reminded of all those Pinoy soap operas on television and those heart-tugging romantic dramas in Philippine movies. "The Notebook" plays like an engaging Pinoy melodrama—only this was in English and with Hollywood actors.

The perfect movie, we thought, for Filipinos who love a good cry.

Based on Nicholas Sparks' 1996 novel that sold 850,000 copies in hardcover alone, "The Notebook" is a tale of a lovestruck couple from opposite ends of the social ladder who unexpectedly gets reunited after World War II.

The $30-million period romance-drama is directed by Nick Cassavetes ("John Q," "She's So Lovely"), son of the late independent film legend John Cassavetes.

Nick's mom, acclaimed actress Gena Rowlands, stars in this film which was one of the surprise hits in the just concluded US summer movie season.

Also starring veteran actor James Garner, the movie opens in a nursing home where Garner is reading a story from his notebook to Gena Rowlands who has Alzheimer's disease. Gosling is a dashing mill worker and McAdams a prep-school debutante-socialite.

We interviewed the young stars of the movie at a hotel in Los Angeles. By coincidence, both Gosling and McAdams were born in London, Ontario, a picturesque Canadian town, where both of them began and nurtured their budding acting careers before they decided to try their luck in Hollywood.

## Hot chick

Although she has portrayed bitchy girls with cruel streaks on screen, Rachel McAdams, 25, is a soft-spoken, warm and charming young lady in person. Dressed in a red off-shoulder top and black pants with long silver earrings and a silver bracelet, McAdams is a wide-eyed girl whose bedimpled smile makes you easily warm up to her.

A competitive ice skater since she was 4, McAdams changed gears when she visited Stratford at age 12 and started attending a local theater there. Soon she got hooked onto acting and found herself winning awards for her performances in high school plays. Inspired, she decided to take up theater at York University where she graduated with honors.

After graduation, she got her breakout role in the Canadian feature "Perfect Pie" where she got a Genie Award nomination that is Canada's equivalent to the Oscar.

When she decided to go to Hollywood, McAdams got lucky by getting a big role right away in "The Hot Chick" where she starred opposite Filipino-American comedian-actor Rob Schneider. She got her next big break when she starred opposite singer-actress Lindsay Lohan in "Mean Girls."

Asked how it felt to be carrying the emotional weight in "The Notebook," McAdams smiled and chirpily replied, "Yeah, I was totally frightened because they said if I wasn't good in this movie, the movie would be screwed!"

## Heart vs head

McAdams unabashedly admitted, "At first, I was putting way too much pressure on myself and I realized that it wasn't getting me anywhere because stress follows. I had to get to that point where my survival instincts kicked in and I just said to myself, 'Ok, let's go take a ride!'"

McAdams confessed that she could relate to her character and her love and passion for somebody she cares for. She explained, "I try to be as cynical or as practical as I can but my heart always wins the battle with my head."

Not that she has fallen head over heels with someone, but she explained, "To be able to put myself into my character's shoes, I tried to reconnect with my first love experiences. It was also like working with someone for the first time. I know that sort of an interesting parallel but it worked for me. Ryan (Gosling) and I did not know each other that well and so we got to know each other's little nuances each day and discovered something new about each other. In movie-making, it's strange to be making love scenes with people you've never even said hello to, but it helps keep that fresh quality to a screen relationship."

As for doing the passionate love scenes with Gosling, McAdams revealed that she did not have any trepidation about doing those because "I had lengthy conversations from the very beginning with (director) Nick (Cassavetes) and Ryan. I started prepping for those scenes for two months when we were shooting in Charleston (South Carolina). It had always been an open discussion about how things would go. Also, Ryan is a real gentleman and I trust him. So we decided to just play it out and see if it worked."

McAdams is now busy filming the romantic-comedy "Wedding Crashers" which stars Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn and Christopher Walken.

## Ex-Mousekeeter

Blue-eyed and bearded Ryan Gosling, 23, was sporting the disheveled "bed hair" look that is common among the young male Hollywood stars when we talked to him. Looking more mature than his age, Gosling was wearing a blue plaid shirt, brown pants and a silver necklace. He drank his bottled water, comfortably slouched on the chair for the interview and gave us a casual "Hi."

Tall, lanky and blonde, Gosling was now a far cry from his Mousekeeter days when he started his show biz career as one of the members of the "Mickey Mouse Club" in 1993. Yes, he sang, danced and acted with the likes of Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake and JC Chasez of N'SYNC as well as Keri Russell of TV's "Felicity."

From there, he started doing movies for the Disney Channel ("Frankenstein and Me," "The Road to Avonlea") and then graduated

TEARJERKER/ A2-6

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Huge #1 openings for RESIDENT EVIL 2

**RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse** killed all competition last weekend and landed #1 in the North American boxoffice. The film was also #1 in Japan with US$ 5.8m opening and Taiwan with US$1.1M. Boxoffice tracking firm *www.boxofficemojo.com* reported that the Japanese and Taiwanese boxoffice figures for **RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse** were higher than the take of similar genre films like *Alien vs. Predator* and *Anaconda* released a few weeks ago.

The film will open this week in Thailand and the Philippines. Sony also expects huge boxoffice returns from these two countries.

**RESIDENT EVIL: Apocalypse**, which finds ***Milla Jovovich*** as a human heroine who battles infected zombies, was the fifth top spot debut of the year for market share leader Sony and was the tenth sequel to open at number one in 2004. The actioner appealed mostly to young men and women and it should outgun the $39.5M gross of the first Resident Evil keeping the franchise alive and ready for Part 3.

Milla Jovovich

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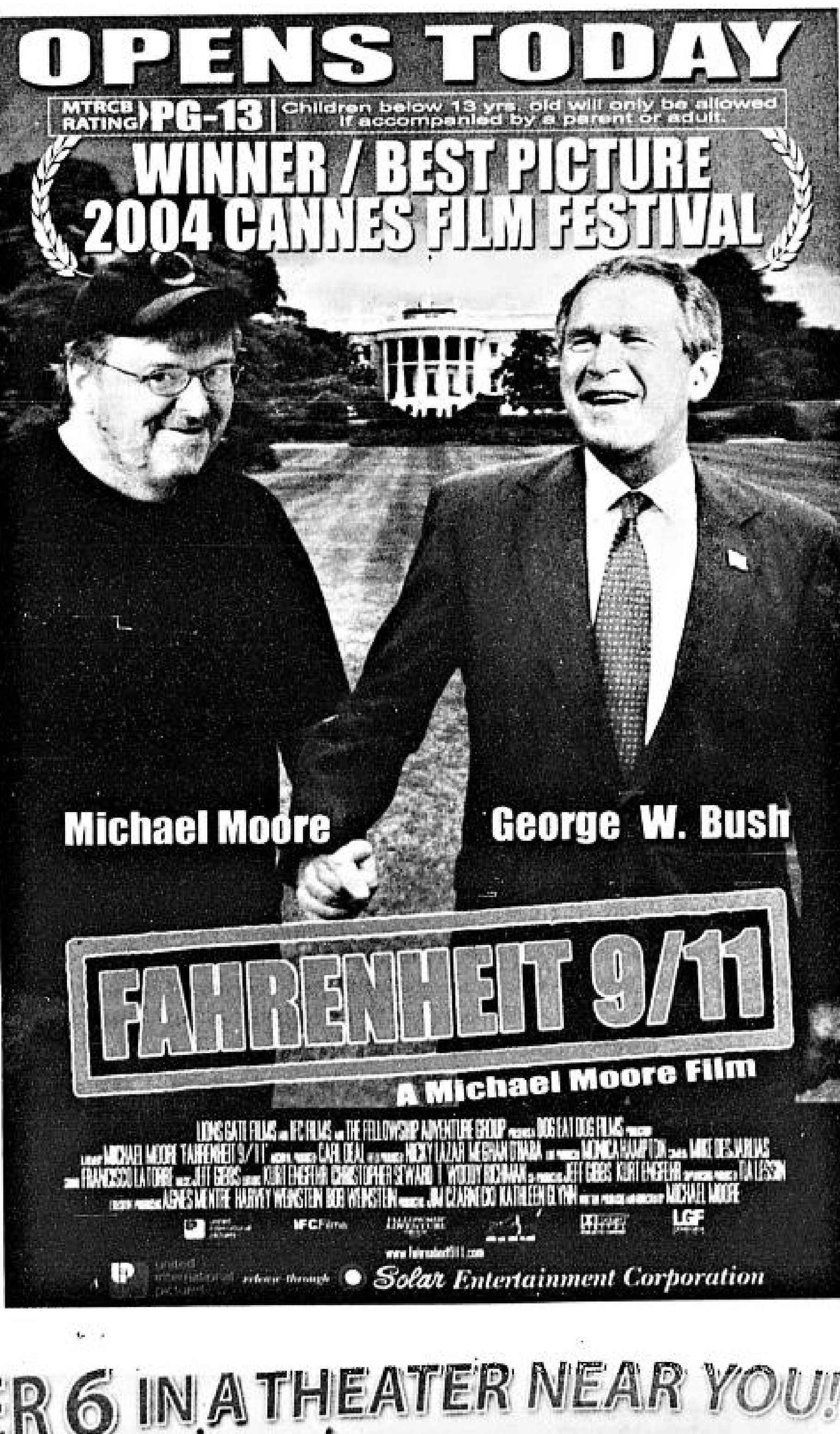
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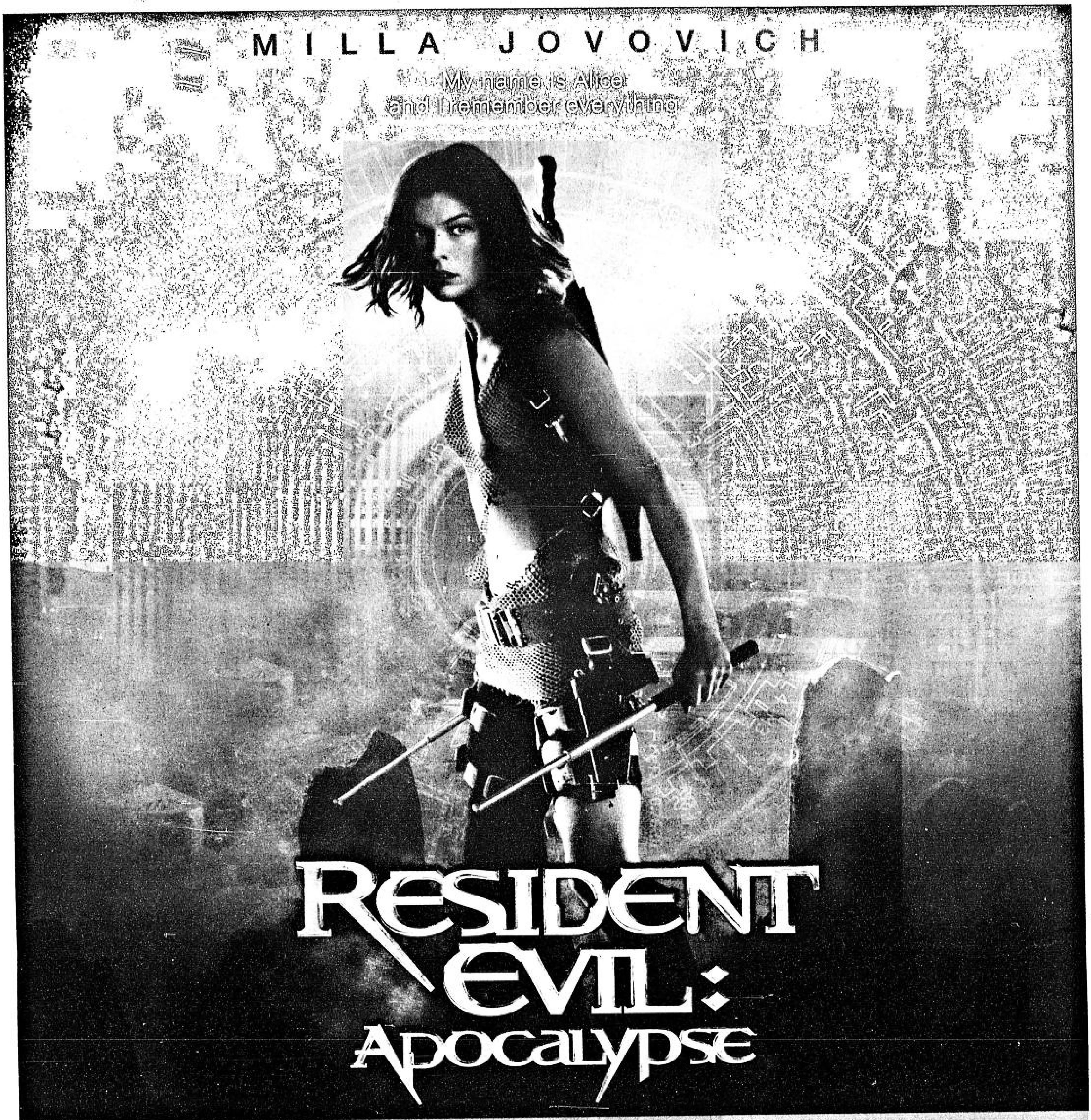

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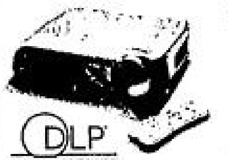

# HK tycoon eyes stake in telecom sector

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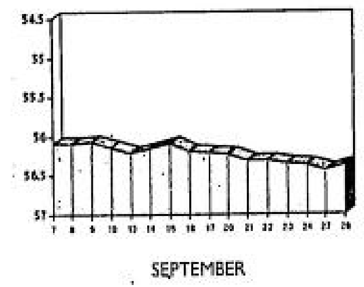

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 28, 2004

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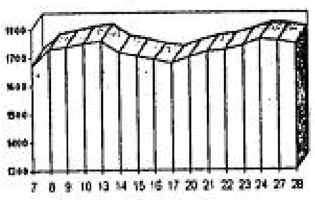
### STOCK MARKET

## Shares close 0.81% lower



(See stock market report on Page B8)

SHARE prices closed 0.81 percent lower yesterday as a weaker currency and continuing high oil prices hit sentiment, dealers said.

The market is still in a consolidation mode following a rise to 53-month highs on Friday, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 14.25 points to 1,746.08 after trading between 1,741.55 and 1,761.21. The broader all-shares index ended down 14.07 points at 1,087.78.

Losers led gainers 56 to 19 with 55 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 616.88 million shares worth P755.99 million after 1.02 billion shares worth P814.17 million on Monday.

The peso fell to an all-time low of 56.45 against the dollar on Monday but strengthened slightly to 56.423 by midday yesterday with the support of the central bank, dealers said.

"There is a convergence of various negative developments (that) investors have taken as an excuse to cash in gains," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

However, he said investor sentiment remained positive and he expected the main index to continue toward the 1,800 level in the medium-term.

"Blue chips continue to hold the fort. Most second liners are now correcting," he said. "From a technical perspective, the market is simply consolidating in a 1,680-1,800 trading range."

Top-traded Bank of the Philippine Islands rose 50 centavos to P46. Philippine Long Distance Telephone was unchanged at P1,390. Ayala Corp. fell 20 centavos to P6.10.

San Miguel Corp. saw its "B" shares, which are available to foreign investors, remain unchanged at P71.50 while its "A" shares gained 50 centavos to P58.

*AFP*

By Clarissa S. Batino

**ASIA'S richest businessman, Li Ka-shing, is on the prowl for investment opportunities in the Philippine telecommunication sector.**

INQUIRER sources said that one of Li Ka-shing's companies, Hutchison Telecommunications International, a subsidiary of Hong Kong's Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., was in loose talks with Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

A fixed-line operator, Digitel ventured into the wireless business in March 2003 and now operates Sun Cellular. Stocks of the Gokongwei telecom firm had been going up since late last week and were among the top traded on speculation that the Hong Kong tycoon was buying into the company.

Some brokers heard about Hutchison's interest in Digitel, triggering the uptick in Digitel prices from late last week until Monday. "Talks about Hutchison buying into Digitel provided some excitement to market players," according to one trader.

Digitel shares dropped to 83 centavos yesterday from 88 centavos last Monday as some players took profit.

Digitel president Lance Gokongwei immediately dismissed the reported buy-in as mere rumors. "Really, that's just a rumor," he said in reply to queries about Hutchison's interest in his telecom company. He did not elaborate.

A source said Hutchison was also heard to be interested in Express Telecommunications Inc., but that the talks failed to advance. Extelcom is partly owned by Bayan Telecommunications Philippines Inc. of the Lopez Group.

Extelcom, according to sources, had been trying to lure interested buyers but could not sustain enough interest because of outstanding issues on its rehabilitation.

The telecom company holds a license to operate a wireless service and was assigned several frequencies that could be attractive to existing players.

It used to operate an analog service and, at one time, its subscribers reached about 230,000. But with aggressive players in the digital mobile service such as Globe and Smart, analog wireless players had a difficult time coping.

Another industry source said Hutchison could just be window-shopping in the Philippines considering that the Hong Kong-based port-to-phone operator wanted to expand in emerging countries.

The entry of a foreign player in the local telecom market could provide exciting competition to big players like Globe and Smart, both owned by major regional players.

Globe is partly owned by Singapore Telecoms while Smart is wholly owned by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. which, in turn, is 24-percent owned by First Pacific Co. Ltd of Hong Kong.

Hutchison, which started marketing last week its initial public offering worth around $1 billion, operates wireless and fixed-line phone networks in eight countries, including Hong Kong, India, Israel, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, Ghana and Macau.

Hutchison posted a loss of $68 million on revenue of $1.3 billion in 2003, but turned a profit of $69 million on revenue of $883 million in the first half of 2004.

# Pancake House joins drive on saving energy

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE waiting for your favorite pancakes and waffles, why not try your hand at some fun games involving a little skill in conserving fuel and electricity?

For a whole month starting Sept. 28, the time a Pancake House customer spends waiting for his food can be spent learning more about how to save on energy and effectively save on energy-related monthly expenses with the use of fun games printed on the restaurant's paper placemats.

In partnership with the Department of Energy, Pancake House committed to educate its customers on energy conservation by participating in the government's Placemates project.

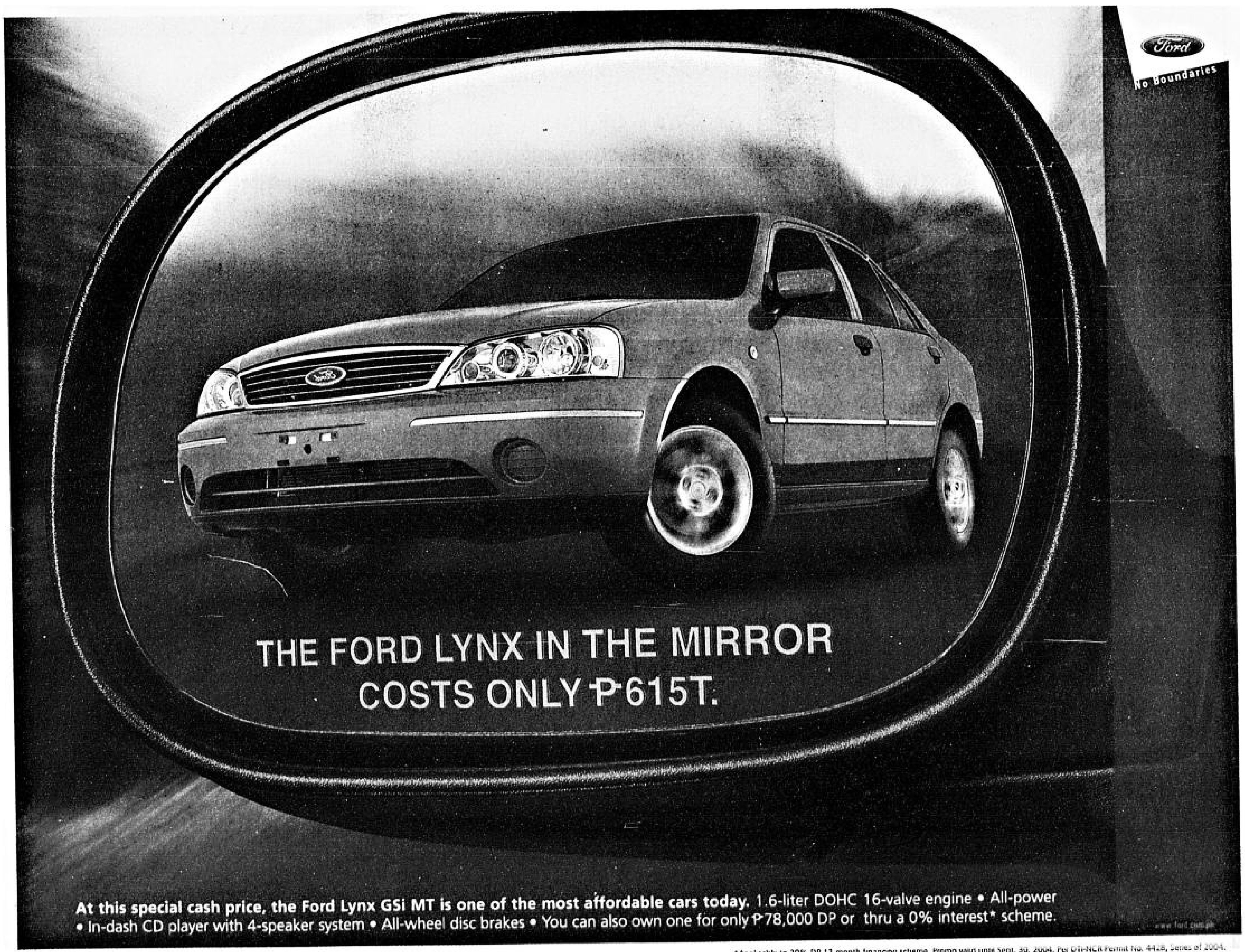
The Placemates project, an initiative under the DOE's EC (energy conservation) Way of Life program, involves the printing of energy conservation tips on paper placemats or tray mats that local fastfood and restaurant chains use.

Pancake House is the second restaurant that entered into a partnership with the DOE for the project, the first being fastfood giant McDonald's.

"We're happy and proud to be chosen to help educate people on energy conservation," Pancake House president Martin Lorenzo said during yesterday's signing of the pledge of commitment to the project.

As Pancake House's target market included people from the A, B

PANCAKE/ B8



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## NAPOCOR DEPENDENCE ON BORROWINGS

# Debt explosion: A catastrophe bound to happen

**By Edgardo M. Del Fonso**

*(2nd of a series)*

COMMENTARY

IF THERE is one turning point that marked Napocor's passage down the road to financial perdition, it was the government's acts of omission or commission in the late 1980s in dealing with the power situation.

Napocor's spiral is directly linked to the economic, structural, regulatory and statutory environment in which it has operated. The fundamental drivers behind its performance can be traced to the following developments:

- A frenzied buildup in generation capacity—mostly through fast-tracked build-operate-transfer contracts with IPPs;
- Total reliance on borrowings to finance its asset expansion, with hardly any equity support from the government;
- Power reform law that, intended or not, deals a serious blow to Napocor's viability;
- A regulatory regime that balked at allowing full cost recovery, and
- A series of regional and national setbacks that shaved more than half the peso's value.

What this enumeration and the discussion that follows say is that there is hardly any group or institution remotely connected with the power sector, now or in the past, that can escape some blame for the fiasco.

### Mothballing of BNPP

Start with the decision to mothball the 625-MW Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Granted that safety concerns and bribery allegations doomed the then state-of-the-art plant to the scrap heap. The government should have built a replacement to take up the slack. When, inevitably, peak demand began to outstrip generating capacity, the tenuous supply/demand balance collapsed and the country went through rolling brownouts running several hours a day.

It was not a pleasant time: Pablo Malixi, then Napocor president, tells of his neighbors throwing spoiled food over his fence to express their disgust over brownouts. That was a minor discomfort compared to what industries and individuals had to go through in coping with the power shortage. And the negative implications on the economy in terms of stunted growth, forgone investments and employment, and its financial repercussions on Napocor and the government, are still to be played out.

In the early 1990s, the government shifted gears and started playing catch up. The difference is that instead of having Napocor build the power plants, as in the past, the government opted to construct most of the capacity under BOT (build-operate-transfer) arrangements with independent power producers.

### Catching up

Two reasons may have contributed to this decision. First, the government had limited financial resources and the Philippines was still taking baby steps to reenter the international capital markets after the debt moratorium of the mid-1980s. It was in no position yet to mount a major borrowing program. Second, Napocor's ponderous processes would have meant longer gestation periods.

The only plant Napocor completed on its own in the 1990s was the 600-MW Masinloc Coal Plant in 1998, which took more than eight years to get done. Clearly, the government did not have the resources nor the agility to embark on an ambitious, capital-intensive, time-sensitive building program.

Between 1991 and early 2004 Napocor installed or restored 8,300 MW of generating capacity through IPP contracts.

From 1991 to 1995, IPPs installed 18 plants generating nearly 2,800 MW of capacity, 14 of which were oil-fired plants. These power stations take a relatively short time to install, and can start and stop on short notice. The downside, however, is that they are expensive to run. The fuel bill is more than 3-1/2 times the equivalent for coal, and more than 80 percent for geothermal steam.

The building program continued on through the rest of the decade and beyond, even as by 1998, it was increasingly apparent that demand was not as robust as expected. The Power Development Plan prepared yearly by the Department of Energy provides a forecast of the country's power needs. In 1993 the PDP forecasted demand to reach 8,274 MW by 1998, but the actual level was only 6,666 MW, or lower by 19 percent. It placed capacity needs for 2000 at 10,817 MW, the actual was 7,400 MW or lower by 32 percent.

Of course nobody could have predicted the disruptions caused by the Asian financial crisis and other political developments, but since the PDP was the basis for capacity planning, many of the IPPs signed in the second half of the 1990s ended up running way below their expected capacity factors.

One could say, with the benefit of hindsight, that some of the projects should have been cancelled or at least deferred. But the program continued on, with the exception of a proposed gas-fired plant that has been indefinitely suspended by the Arroyo administration and a coal plant that is being implemented in Mindanao only now, years behind schedule.

### Defying standards

In the 10 years between 1992 and 2002, Napocor's assets soared from P203 billion to P1.153 trillion, an increase of P950 billion. Over the same period paid up and donated capital increased by a mere P10 billion, to P30 billion. That meant that Napocor's capital financed less than 3 percent of its assets. With such paltry equity support from the government, it had to finance its expansion almost entirely through foreign borrowings and lease obligations, in defiance of all reasonable prudential standards.

It is easy to see that a debt explosion of that scale is a catastrophe waiting to happen, as it did in 2003. Napocor absorbed P260 billion in interest and other debt-related expenses between 1998 and 2003, contributing to losses and accounting adjustments adding up to P451 billion in 2003. *(To be continued)*

*(The author is the former president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.)*

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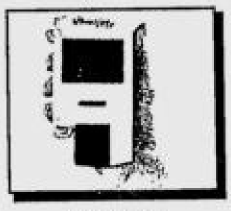
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## An open letter to the Honorable Senator Richard Gordon

Dear Senator Gordon,

We, at the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA), salute and support your move against the smuggling of second-hand vehicles into the country and their conversion from right to left hand drive. We share your vigilance and concern, as do many Filipinos who sincerely desire the economic healing and progress of our country.

We are disheartened that this unlawful practice is being tolerated. Not only is the smuggling unfair to the honest people working in the automotive industry for hard -earned money and to the car manufacturers and dealers that follow legal practices and pay the right taxes, but furthermore, the "backyard" conversion of these vehicles also poses a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians alike. This practice is clearly detrimental to an industry that has the potential to make a profound contribution to the country's economy, while it only benefits those who possess the same short-sightedness that has plummeted our country into the precarious situation we find ourselves in today. It is in the industry's, and, more importantly, in the Filipino people's best interest that we put an end to this deviation from the law.

The PAA is one with you in the fight against this immoral and unlawful practice, and pledge to work side by side with you in order to attain that which is best for the motoring public, the automotive industry, and the Filipino people.

God bless you.

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# Out of school

**COCKTALES**

*Victor C. Agustin*

THE HEIRS of the late Vice President Fernando Lopez are getting out of the education business and have been entertaining offers for the sale of the family-owned University of Iloilo.

On Monday, AIM professor Chito Salazar visited the Iloilo campus on behalf of the Phinma Group. Flush with cash from its cement divestment, the Phinma Group has just completed the acquisition and takeover this school year of the Araullo University in Cabanatuan City.

Earlier, Philippine National Bank president Lorenzo Tan also flew to the city to inspect the 1.3-hectare campus and another 7-hectare property in Pavia, where the university plans to relocate the bulk of its classes, near the new international airport.

Tan was representing taipan Lucio Tan, no relation to him, who is considering placing the 57-year-old school within his University of the East system.

The University of Iloilo is headed by former Rep. Alberto Lopez, who took over the chairmanship and the presidency after his father, the former vice president, died in 1993.

According to the grapevine, the colorful congressman wants to already retire but none of the five other siblings or their children have a passion for the academe.

Although started out by Fernando and his brother Eugenio, the late ABS-CBN patriarch, the school was eventually handed over to the Fernando wing of the landed family.

The late Don Fernando had six children, namely Yolanda, Benito (now deceased), Fernando Jr. (whose stake had been bought out by Emily, the second wife of Alberto), Alberto, Milagros (deceased), and Emmanuel, a Europe-based artist.

According to the grapevine, each of the six Lopez children wants P100 million, net of taxes, from the sale, putting the price tag for the university at P600 million net. Another account claims the asking price was only P400 million.

The school opened in June 1947 as Iloilo City Colleges, targeting the island's lower income families. It was granted university status in 1968, and at its peak had about 18,000 students.

This year's enrolment has dwindled to less than 8,000.

## Aguirre fallout

THE COURT of Appeals has rebuked former Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo and former Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong for ordering the deportation of the American brother-in-law of Banco Filipino vice chair Albert "Bobby" Aguirre.

As well, the Court of Appeals—through Justices Mariano del Castillo, Romeo Brawner and Jose Sabio Jr.—nullified and set aside the 2002 deportation order against Christopher Koruga, who is married to Bobby Aguirre's younger sister, Nanette.

The appellate court said both Domingo and Datumanong had committed grave abuse of discretion when the two officials relied on an anonymous letter claiming Koruga was a one-time drug offender in the United States to order the deportation of the American.

Even assuming that Koruga had been guilty

COCKTALES/ B5

# 7-yr T-bond rate hits 12.806%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COST of the government's seven-year treasury bonds inched up to 12.806 percent yesterday, a day after the peso slid back to its all-time low of 56.45 to a dollar.

While the market showed strong appetite for the long-term government securities as shown by the high volume of bids, investors nonetheless sought for higher risk premium.

Tenders for the seven-year paper reached P7.47 billion, or much higher than the P4.5 billion offered by the government. The new seven-year bond rate of 12.806 percent was 80.6 basis points higher than a month ago.

But outgoing National Treasurer Mina Figueroa said that if the weakening of the peso had something to do with the increase in the treasury bond rate, the impact was only minimal. She explained that bidders for long-term government securities were not only banks, which react more to movements of the peso, but insurance companies as well.

"If the peso fully affected the T-bond rate, then it could have reached more than 13 percent," Figueroa said in a press briefing after the auction.

# Stock index fund of BPI relaunched

By Doris Dumlao

THE AYALAS' Bank of the Philippine Islands yesterday relaunched the Philippine Index Fund (PIF), the country's first and only index tracker fund that is targeted to reach P1 billion this year.

Adelbert Legasto, senior vice president of PIF fund manager BPI Asset Management and Trust Group, yesterday said the fund now had a seed capital of P370 million.

The fund was established in 2002, but this is the first time it is being offered to the public.

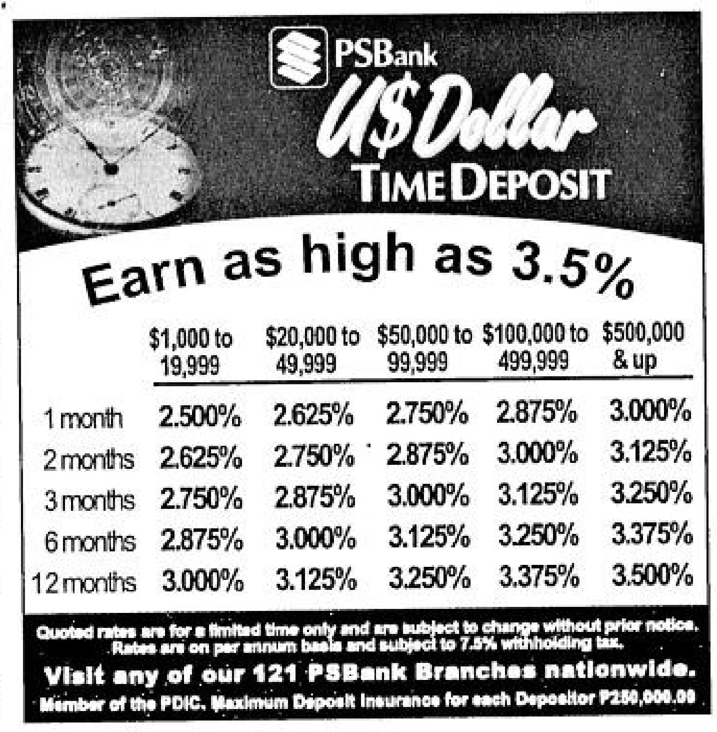
PIF aims to provide an alternative for equity investors who believe in the potential of the domestic equities market, at the same time enjoying risk diversity as well as low entry costs.

Designed to track the movements of the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, Legasto said the PIF had been successful in tracking the returns of the index while taking advantage of the bottoming out of the market in the fourth quarter of 2002.

He noted that the fund had chalked up an impressive 42.2-percent return on investment for 2003.

Legasto said the launch of the index fund was an indicator of BPI's optimism in the market. It was projected that the Phisix would rise to initially target the 1,700 psychological level heading toward the 1,900 level.

"As of Sept. 9 this year, the index surpassed the initial targeted level and poised to challenge the 1,800 level after a long-due correction," Legasto said.



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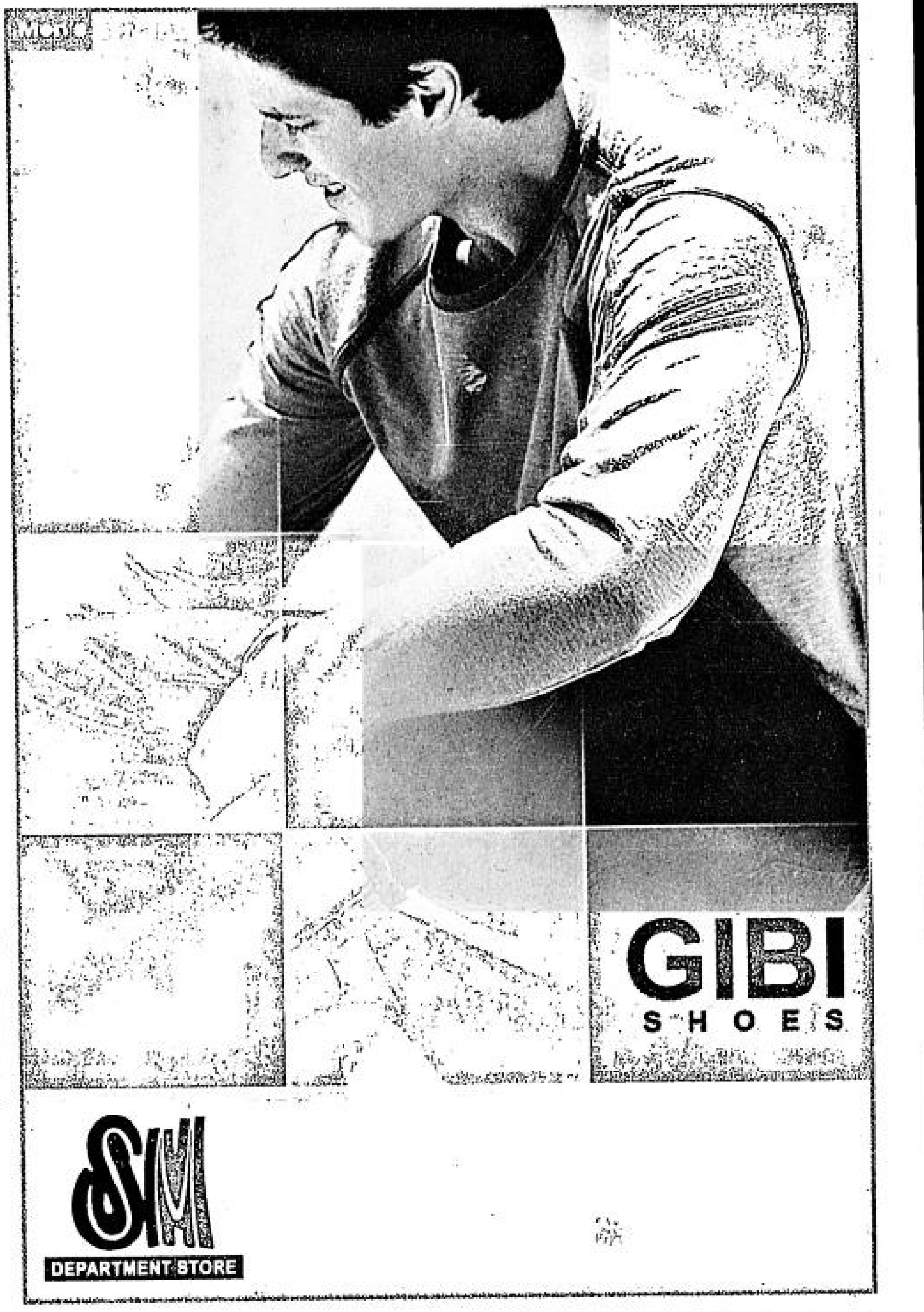

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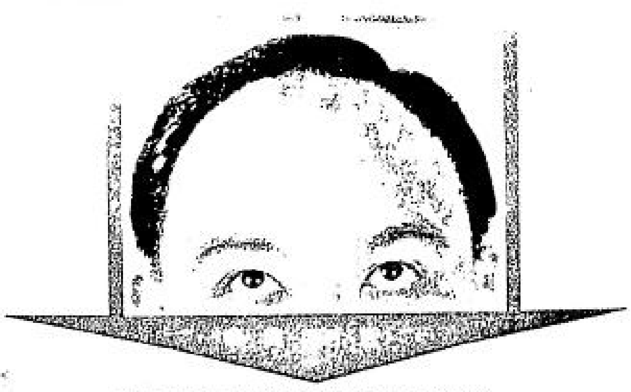

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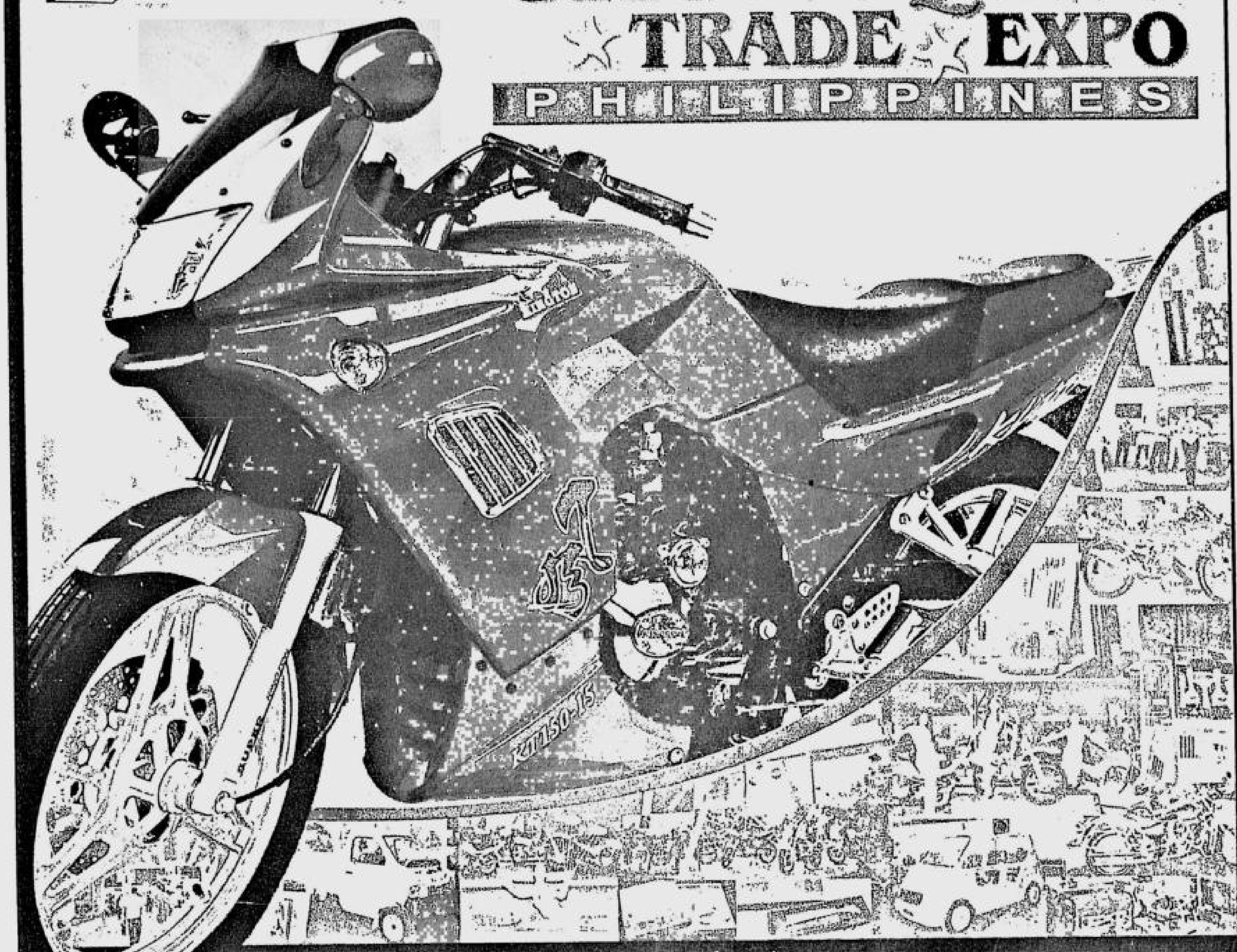

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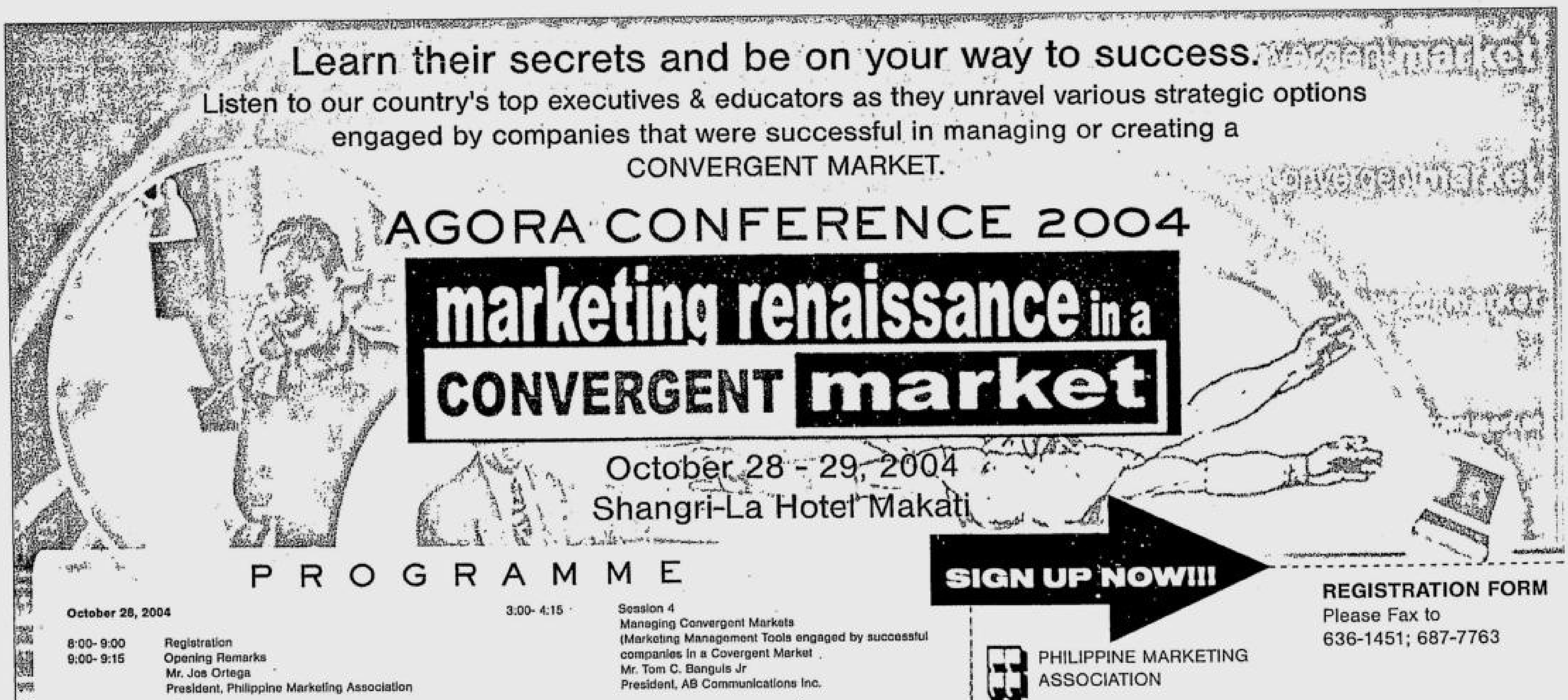

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## PROGRAMME

**October 28, 2004**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:00- 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00- 9:15 | Opening Remarks<br>Mr. Jos Ortega<br>President, Philippine Marketing Association |
| AM Sessions<br>9:15- 10:15 | Module 1: Principles of Market Convergence<br>Session 1<br>Introduction to Market Convergence<br>(Principles and Components of Market Convergence)<br>Ms. Karen V. De Asis<br>Faculty and Marketing Director<br>DLSU Graduate School of Business |
| 10:15- 11:30 | Session 2<br>Market Convergence: Market Technology-Driven?<br>(Roots or Origins of Convergent Markets)<br>Mr. Ferdinand M. De La Cruz<br>Head, Wireless Business Group, GLOBE Telecom |
| 11:30- 12:00 nn | Synthesis/Open Forum<br>Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr.<br>Dean, Professional Continuing Education<br>DLSU, College of St. Benilde |
| 12:00 nn- 1:00 pm | LUNCH BREAK |
| PM Sessions<br>1:15- 2:30 | Module 2: Managing in a Convergent Market<br>Session 3<br>Strategic Options in a Convergent Market<br>(Competing in a Convergent Market and the Financial Benefits of Succeeding in this Market)<br>Sec. Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr.<br>Presidential Adviser for Job Generation and Chairman of Land Bank and Quedancor |
| 3:00- 4:15 | Session 4<br>Managing Convergent Markets<br>(Marketing Management Tools engaged by successful companies in a Covergent Market<br>Mr. Tom C. Banguis Jr<br>President, AB Communications Inc. |
| 4:15- 4:30 | Synthesis/Open Forum<br>Ms. Luz T. Suplico<br>Assistant Professor, De La Salle University |

**October 29, 2004**

| | |
|---|---|
| AM Sessions<br>9:10- 10:15 | Module 3; Preparing or Planning for a Convergent Market<br>Session 5<br>Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?<br>(Predicting Industries That are Ripe for Convergence)<br>Mr. Bienvenido C. Nitos, Jr.<br>President, AC Nielsen- Asia Pacific |
| 10:15- 11:30 | Session 6<br>Convergent Market: Can Managers Shape it?<br>(Influencing the shape and trend of Market Convergence)<br>Mr. Amable R. Aguiluz, V<br>President, AMA Education System |
| 11:30- 11:45 | Synthesis/Open Forum<br>Ms. Mylene Abiva-Sazon<br>Chief Executive Officer, Felta Multi-Media Inc. |
| 11:45- 12:00 | Closing/Raffle |

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# Firm sinks in ₱352M to put up bus assembly plant at Subic Freeport

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

A FIRM backed by American and Filipino investors would be pouring in P352 million at the Subic Freeport to put up an assembly plant for brand new buses.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito C. Payumo yesterday said encouraging the venture was a way of addressing the high cost of importing completely built up units.

Payumo said the SBMA recently approved a long-term sub-lease agreement between Global Terminals and Development Inc. and HVC Motors Corp. Under the deal, HVCMC would lease from Global Terminals a 3,700-square-meter lot at the Ship Repair Facility compound.

HVCMC would produce 24- and 29-seater buses in its first year of operation.

"This would help in creating more jobs inside the Freeport," Payumo said.

HVCMC is the newest addition to the HVC Group of Companies, which is engaged primarily in providing health care systems and services.

The firm hopes to export assembled units to Panama, Costa Rica, Thailand and other countries where the HVC group does business.

# RP inflation seen to hit 6.8% in Sept.

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate would likely hit 6.3-6.8 percent in September from a year ago mainly due to skyrocketing oil prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

In August, the annual inflation rate based on the 1994 consumer price index likewise rose to 6.3 percent from 6 percent in July.

"The uptrend in the forecast inflation rate reflects the impact of supply-side factors, particularly the series of domestic oil price increases in recent months, and the recent adjustment in power rates," BSP research director Editha Alido said in a report.

BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo noted that oil prices based on Dubai crude averaged higher at $32.1 per barrel during the month.

Last year, crude oil prices averaged at only $24-$27 per barrel.

"During September, transport and food were more expensive than last year," Guinigundo added.

On Monday, crude oil prices hit nearly $50 per barrel as violence in Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Iraq raised global supply risks.

The National Statistics Office has updated its CPI report using a 2000 index, but the BSP still uses the 1994 base for its inflation-targeting.

Based on the BSP's simulations, inflation rate in the Philippines this year could average at 5.19-5.51 percent, overshooting the government's targets.

Also, the BSP has been resisting pressures to tighten its grip on money supply, knowing the existing pressures were driven by supply side factors and can not be influenced by monetary policy.

While inflation is seen to peak next year, the BSP expects it to return to the 4-5 percent range by 2006.

# Cocktales

From page B3

of a drug-related offense more than two decades ago, drug-related deportation under the Philippine Immigration Act would only apply "if the alien has been convicted and sentenced for a violation of the prohibitive drugs law of the Philippines," the appellate court said.

The court even noted that the US Embassy had written Domingo twice to vouch and intervene for Koruga. But Domingo, a martial law detainee, was unmoved, while an appeal filed with then Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo gathered cobwebs before being bounced off to Datumanong.

Rather than wait to be deported after his brief detention, Koruga voluntarily left the country, with Nanette and their two grade school kids following him later to Seattle.

Even in Seattle, the legal problems followed, as Bobby Aguirre filed a court action, and an appeal after also losing the case, to foreclose on the home-for-the-aged business that Nanette has set up with her inheritance money.

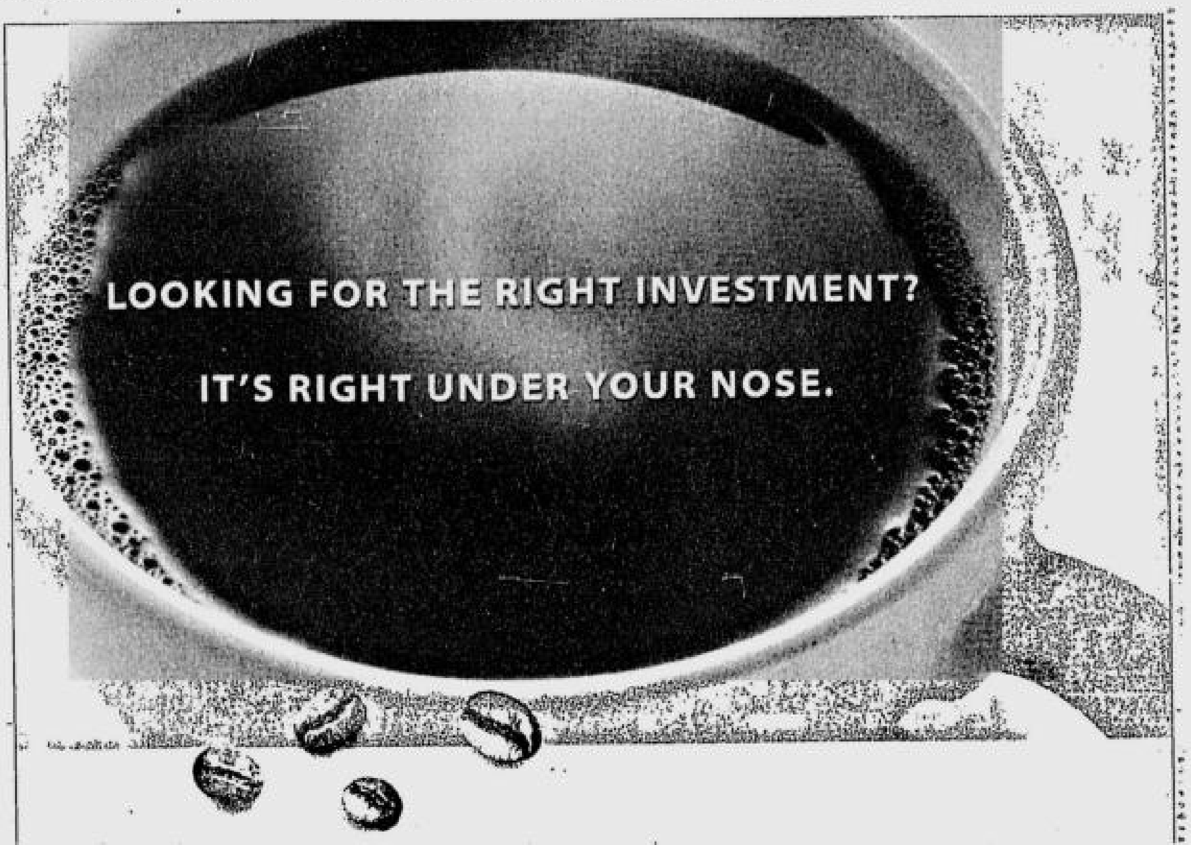
The Korugas have expressed their desire to return to the Philippines, although it is not clear whether they still have a home to come to since even their Malate condo unit is also in danger of being taken back by a family company controlled by Bobby Aguirre.

## Heard through the grapevine

EMBOLDENED by the success of his first wife's hotel venture in Vigan, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has decided to build a tourist-oriented resort complex in the undeveloped hills of his sprawling Baluarte residence.

The planned resort, which overlooks the South China Sea, will also offer Mediterranean-style townhouses for sale.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)*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## TRANSCO CONCESSION CONTRACT

# PSALM pleased over quality of bids

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE QUALITY of bids the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has received for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession contract leaves little to be desired in financial and technical terms, according to PSALM officials.

"We are pleased with the quality of the term sheets," Energy Secretary and PSALM vice chair Vincent Perez said in an interview yesterday. "We are pleased with the financial and technical depth of the interested bidders."

However, Perez said PSALM would still need some time to discuss the revised term sheets, which the state firm just got last week.

Because of the capital-intensive and highly technical nature of the transmission business, he said Transco's privatization process had a lot of aspects that needed thorough scrutiny.

This was precisely why PSALM requested the five bidders to submit revised term sheets, even after they turned in their original bids early last month.

"We need some time to review them (term sheets) again, given that there are so many aspects of the privatization being addressed by the term sheets," Perez said.

The PSALM board, he said, would be coming out with more concrete decisions as regards the revised term sheets.

These decisions may involve possible negotiated bidding deadline extensions, whether or not there would be a short list before choosing the winning bidder, and other related matters.

He said PSALM would be evaluating the revised term sheets in the coming weeks.

The state firm is sticking to its end-2004 target for awarding the concession contract. The whole deal should be closed by the first quarter of next year.

Earlier, food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and conglomerate Metro Pacific Corp. confirmed that they were keen on acquiring the Transco concession contract.

Perez, however, declined to say whether or not either or both of these two companies had already submitted actual bids.

Five firms are currently in the running to bag the concession agreement.

The winning firm will hold the Transco concession for 25 years, with an option to renew for another 25 years, depending on certain "performance conditions" set by the government.

The winning concessionaire will be required to pay at least 25 percent of the concession's enterprise value upon closure of the transaction. The balance can then be remitted to the government on an installment basis over a 25-year period.

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# *Solar cell maker hikes investments to $319M in '07*

SOLAR cell maker SunPower Philippines Manufacturing Ltd. is increasing its initial investment of $8.3 million to $319 million in 2007, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

SunPower officials said the company managed to make export standard its A300 silicon solar cells in less than two months after starting operations in the country in March last year.

The success reinforced the firm's decision to expand its operations and cement its status as the first large-scale solar cell facility in Southeast Asia.

About 30 percent of SunPower's products are sold in the local market, while the rest are exported. The expansion is expected to increase sales revenue to $247 million.

The expansion would also entail an increase in its workforce, from 66 to about 1,900 workers.

SunPower's plant at the Laguna Techno Park is designed to meet the increasing global demand for the company's A300 cell, which "is proven to effect a clean, efficient and world-class power source."

The A300 is a 125-millimeter, single-crystal cell that generates 3 watts of electricity and provides low-cost silicon solar cell with a conversion efficiency of 21.5 percent.

Company officials said this meant the cell could deliver up to 50 percent more kilowatts of clear solar power on a limited roof area and significantly reduce installation cost per kilowatt.

The DTI quoted SunPower Corp. chief executive Tom Werner as saying the country's highly skilled workforce, its nearness to key markets in Asia and its cost-effective location were the factors that gave it the competitive advantage as production base. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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41st PMAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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- A menu of strategies that shows how people and culture can be an organization's competitive advantage
- A multisectoral roadmap for value formation and education to support a performance-driven culture
- A blueprint that offers win-win solutions to contentious labor-management issues and will point us towards greater cooperation and less adversarial relations
- A mini conference that showcases new learning technologies and that bridges and unites generations of workers to work together for a better Philippines

### Conference Theme and Metaphor

The 2004 PMAP Annual Conference takes place at a time when nations **go for the gold** in the Athens Olympics. Amidst the cool breeze and lush greenery of Camp John Hay in Baguio City, the conference will goad participants to **go for the win**. While nations compete in Athens to be faster, higher, stronger, the Conference participants will learn how to do things **better, faster, stronger and even be happier**. We have stories aplenty to share in the 2004 Annual Conference that will prove beyond doubt that Filipinos and their organizations can survive and prosper amidst global competition.

### Tracks / Topics

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**Profiles of Excellence**

**The conference theme will be presented through a combination of performing arts and video clips that highlight the great potential of the Filipino as a WINNER – in his own country and in the globalized world.**

**TRACK ONE**

**Going the Extra Mile: Values and Mindsets that Make the Difference**

Delegates can look forward to learning from the success and achievements of persons and organizations, which have demonstrated the heart and the will to succeed and where driven by distinct personal and organizational values to achieve ambitious goals. The values and work habits of the Filipino will be discussed in the light of the performance-driven culture that we need to nurture and promote.

- **Choosing to Win: A Journey of Hope** shows how important persistence and inner vision is in overcoming obstacles and in winning.
- **The Profile of a Filipino Leader** should be of interest to people managers in business and government and to educators who mould young minds and hearts.
- **Winning organizations Showcase** will relate how innovation, passion for excellence, agility, teamwork and integrity, and a performance-driven culture have driven organizational and business success.
- **Sectoral Collaborative Discussion on Values Education**
- **Benchmarking the Filipino Talent**

**TRACK TWO**

**Going for the Common Ground: A Business World Without Divides**

PMAP takes on the role of a bridge leader in efforts to forge consensus with labor on certain contentious issues, which have hounded labor-management relations for years. PMAP likewise believes that relevant and responsive legislation must also be supported by HR initiatives to enhance unity, harmony and productivity.

- **The Labor Code: Looking for Win-win Solutions**
- **The Saga of Workplace Democracy and Cooperation in the Philippines**

**TRACK THREE**

**The Winner's Toolbox** will feature tools, techniques and programs to achieve the "better, faster, happier, stronger" goals of organizations.

- **ADR: The Art of Constructive Dialogue**
- **Operational Excellence for Grandmothers**
- **Designing Programs & Curricula that Meet Industry Needs**
- **Using the Assessment Center for Better Selection**
- **Winning Programs on Rewards Management**
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**THE MINI CONFERENCE**

**Convergence: When Woodstock Meets the Ragnarok Generation**

The conference will also be a convergence venue for "generations" of workers to discuss the challenges of the emerging workplace, operationalize the impetus derived from the conference and make resolutions about enhancing the competitiveness of the Philippines – all these in a learning package dubbed as the 2004 mini conference. The conference-within-the-conference will feature highly interactive and state-of-the-art learning technologies that promise to bring the 2004 annual conference into a finale that is inspiring, ennobling and enabling.

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# Gov't to trim list of preferred investment areas

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE GOVERNMENT is moving to significantly trim the list of industries and activities included in the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), in line with efforts to rationalize the country's fiscal incentives system.

According to Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan, the Department of Trade and Industry is coming up with a proposed bill that will reduce the number of industries and activities eligible for fiscal incentives under the IPP.

IPP is a list of government preferred investment activities that are entitled to fiscal incentives, such as income tax holidays and duty-free importation of capital equipment. The Board of Investments, an attached agency of the DTI, prepares the yearly IPP list.

While there are several industries and activities currently covered by the IPP, the government is looking at cutting the number to only eight or 10. She explained that only those considered most vital to the country's economic growth would be retained in the list.

The DTI bill, if approved by Congress, will provide the only list of activities or industries that will be granted fiscal incentives. This means industries and activities not included in the IPP list will not enjoy incentives through other special laws.

While the DTI prepares the bill on the IPP rationalization, the Department of Finance is coming out with a draft bill that will seek the abolition of all special laws granting fiscal incentives.

Tan said that aside from narrowing the coverage of the IPP, the government is also looking at extending the validity of the IPP to three years. Currently, the IPP is changed every year.

The 2004 IPP covers several activities that fall under the following categories and industries: agricultural and fishery production and processing, energy sources, logistics, drugs and medicine, engineered products, information and communication technology, infrastructure, mass housing projects, research and development, social service, tourism-related projects, printing, environmental services, engineering industries, textile, mining, rubber, public utilities, etc.

With the reduction, the government is looking at retaining only eight to 10 industries and activities under the IPP, including information and communication technology, exports and infrastructure.

# Bulk of telcos' earnings comes from 'texting'

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

SMART Communications Inc. said its earnings from text messaging or short messaging system (SMS) now accounted for about 43 percent of total revenue.

Smart and Globe Telecom topped the list of 32 GSM providers in the world that generate revenue from data services.

But because of their dependence on this service, whose cost in the Philippines is the lowest in the world, both Smart and Globe Telecom lag behind their counterparts in terms of earnings.

Rogelio Quevedo, head of Smart's legal affairs, said that in other countries, the cost of text messaging ranged from $0.04 to $0.11 or roughly P2.24 to P6.16 per message. In the Philippines, text messaging costs $0.016.

In the first quarter, about 41 percent of Smart's revenue came from text messaging, based on data from Global mobile Suppliers Association or GSA. Globe followed with its text messaging service accounting for about 38 percent of its sales.

The two telcos topped GSA's list in terms of percentage of revenue coming from data services. Quevedo said 98 percent of Smart's data calls were text messages.

"Affordability is a big factor that made us the world's 'texting' capital," he said.

Quevedo stressed that while Smart and Globe continued to top the list of wireless players in terms of percentage of revenue from data calls, they would not make it to the top 10 phone companies in the world in terms of actual earnings.

"Philippine mobile carriers lag behind their counterparts in terms of earnings because the bulk of their business comes from a service whose local cost is the lowest in the world," he said.

Smart posted a net income of P11.6 billion in the first half out of revenues of about P30.9 billion. Globe's net profit stood at almost P7 billion from a revenue of P26.2 billion in the same period.

GSA is a consortium of global mobile telecom providers like Nokia, Ericcson, Alcatel, Siemens, and Lucent Technologies.

Alfred Ling, GSA chair in Asia Pacific, said that data revenue could be derived from short messaging system, multi media messaging, surfing and even chatting.

Apart from Smart and Globe, the other major GSM providers in the world that generate earnings from data services include Japanese firms NTT DoCoMo, KDD and Vodafone. About 20 to 25 percent of these firms' earnings come from data services.

"I think the data reflects the nature of our market. It is a combination of economics and cultural. Economics because text messaging is considered cheap compared to voice calls and cultural because it is typical among Filipinos to be indirect and non-confrontational," said Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto.

Studies made by foreign research firms projected that the local wireless telecom sector would surpass the 36 percent cellular phone penetration rate worldwide.

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# SMC spending ₱5B this year to expand local food facilities

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp. (SMC) is spending close to P5 billion to expand its food facilities starting this year.

A new PureFoods Hormel meat plant in Cavite is already expected to be operating by the third quarter and process bacon and ham, among other processed meats, SMC said in a disclosure yesterday.

"The expansion of the plant into a world-class facility is part of our commitment in giving consumers only the best quality products," SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said.

In Batangas, a flour mill and a flour-blending facility have also been completed and commercial operations are expected to start soon.

The company's expansion and modernization program in the food sector is part of the larger program to invest an estimated P15 billion in the domestic market over the next three years.

Cojuangco added that SMC's investment reflected the company's continued confidence in the country.

"Given that consumer spending for non-durables such as food and beverage continues to grow, prospects for our business remain bright," he said.

In the next two years, a mixed-use facility will be set up in Laguna, and a veterinary medicine plant and pet food plant in Tarlac will also be put up.

SMC will also invest in expanding hog supply in Bukidnon and Tarlac. For its poultry operations, SMC is also in the initial phase of building a broiler farm in Bulacan.

The company will also expand feed mills in Mariveles, Bataan and in Misamis Oriental.

SMC earlier said it was optimistic its projects could help the government generate thousands of jobs in the countryside.

To make this possible, SMC is planning to source its raw materials locally for its requirements in feeds, liquor and soft drinks instead of importing these. Cassava, corn, soybeans and sorghum are among the crops used heavily by SMC in its food and beverage operations.

Dubbed as a sourcing program introduced in 2002, it aims to provide farmers an assured long-term market for their produce. Its three components are: training and technology transfer, financing and the provision of a steady, assured market marked by stable pricing.

The program was initially introduced in Bukidnon, Zamboanga del Sur, South Cotabato, Caraga region (eastern Mindanao consisting of the cities of Butuan and Surigao and the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur), Negros, Panay in the Visayas, Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and Ilocos region.

# Pancake House joins drive . . .

From page B1

and upper C income brackets, he said the Placemates project would be an effective tool in helping spread information on energy conservation as most of these people had vehicles and a number of appliances in their homes.

Through the restaurant's paper placemats, some 400,000 customers dining in any of Pancake House's 50 branches nationwide would be able to receive valuable insights on how to lower their energy consumption.

Lorenzo said the restaurant chain would evaluate the success of Pancake House's participation in the Placemates project after its initial 30-day run. The company would then decide where to go from there.

"We'll always be supportive of any initiative that the DOE will have in the future," he said.

Pancake House itself, he said, had been implementing some of its own energy-saving measures.

Some of these include the replacement of incandescent bulbs with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) systems and the redesigning of its kitchens to ensure lower liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption.

He related that new Pancake House outlets already employed energy-efficient lighting and kitchen appliances.

"All our new-generation stores are already using the (CFL) bulbs. For our kitchens, designers are also studying how we can make more efficient use of our gas," he said.

Pancake House's version of the Placemate is orange in color, in keeping with the store's theme color, and has a drawing of a house and the different rooms in it as the main feature.

All six different areas in the house—the bedroom, kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, living room and garage—are boxed in, with blanks below each drawing.

Customers then have to fill the blanks in with energy-consuming appliances found in the respective rooms as well as alternative appliances or methods that individuals can use to cut down on energy usage.

Other features of the Placemate include a checklist of an individual's driving habits as well as a word hunt of energy-related words.

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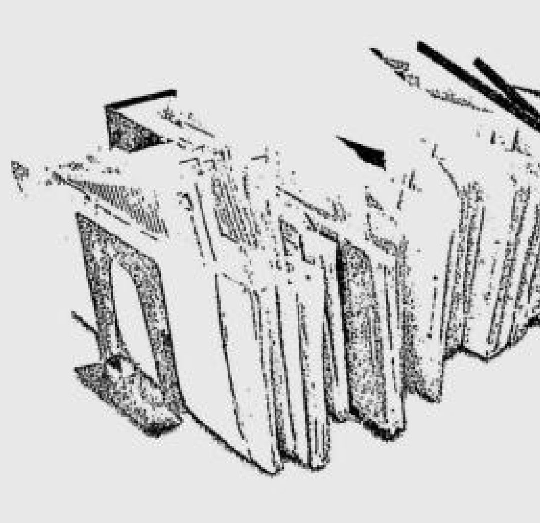

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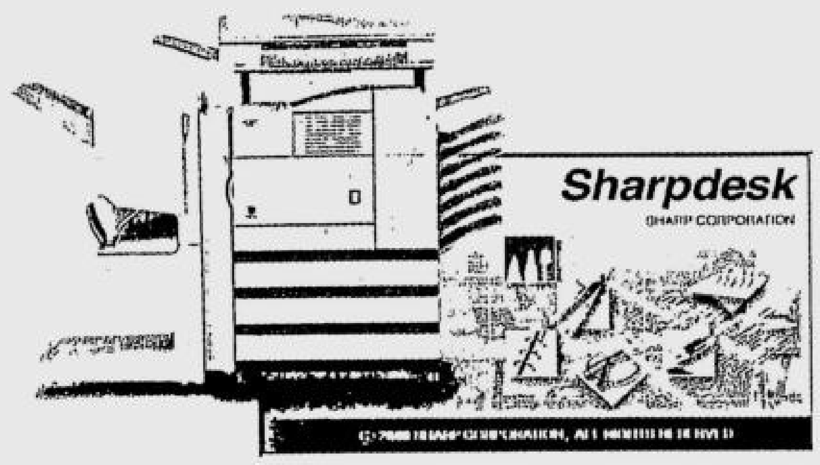

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 28, 2004)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 37,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 45 | 46 | 45 | 46 | 3,481,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 530 | 535 | 530 | 530 | 14,920 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 15,000 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 3,020,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 28 | 28.5 | 28 | 28 | 71,300 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 10,000 |
| Philippine Trust Co. | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 10,300 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 40,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 24.25 | 24.5 | 24.25 | 24.25 | 16,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| First Abacus Financial | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 50,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 2425 | 2425 | 2400 | 2400 | 190 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1630 | 1630 | 1630 | 1630 | 30 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 21 | 21.25 | 21 | 21.25 | 8,500 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.86 | 0.86 | 0.81 | 0.83 | 29,750,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 1085 | 1085 | 1060 | 1060 | 8,900 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 35,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 700,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 9,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.7 | 2.75 | 3,735,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 10,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1400 | 1410 | 1390 | 1390 | 110,180 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.65 | 0.66 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 1,350,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 23,000,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 2,800 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 24.5 | 24.5 | 24 | 24 | 597,300 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.75 | 2.85 | 2.75 | 2.85 | 15,207,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 372,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.42 | 172,000 |
| Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp. | 1.72 | 1.74 | 1.72 | 1.74 | 25,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5 | 5.1 | 2,225,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 150,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 500,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 5,847,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3 | 3 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2,438,000 |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 6,800 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 174,900 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 200,000 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 440,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 58 | 58 | 57.5 | 58 | 156,200 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 71 | 71.5 | 71 | 71.5 | 231,900 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 424,000 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 500,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 0.0048 | 4,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6 | 6.1 | 6,319,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 3.3 | 3.35 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 123,000 |
| Alliance Global Group Inc. | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 1,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 400,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 858,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 20,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. B | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 20,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 30,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14 | 14 | 36,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 2,650,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 1,050,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 2,100,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.15 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 5,540,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.06 | 2.06 | 5,712,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 2,600,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1 | 1 | 140,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 12,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 65,500 |
| Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 10,000 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.0725 | 0.0725 | 0.0725 | 0.0725 | 3,200,000 |
| House Of Investments Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 30,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2.06 | 2.06 | 1.96 | 1.96 | 436,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.88 | 1.88 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 292,000 |
| Keppel Holdings | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 30,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 5,090,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.2 | 1.22 | 3,849,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 400,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 68,380,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 19,150,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.39 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.4 | 80,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.46 | 10,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.165 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 8,470,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.2 | 0.21 | 0.2 | 0.21 | 90,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.22 | 5,000 |
| Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.02 | 2.02 | 21,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.72 | 1.72 | [illegible] |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.93 | 0.98 | 0.93 | 0.98 | 430,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0625 | 0.0625 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 6,400,000 |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 230,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.69 | 0.7 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 4,460,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 310,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 10,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 320,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 21.25 | 21.5 | 21.25 | 21.5 | 47,800 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series R | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,400 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref ) Series U | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,900 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,400 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 3,800 |
| OTHERS | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 15,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 4,470,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.39 | 0.4 | 11,870,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.145 | 0.15 | 2,000,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 17,370,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 360,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.16 | 1.24 | 1.1 | 1.12 | 69,290,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 10,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 700,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 390,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 70,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 2,531,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 5,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 117,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 10,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 680,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 20,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 140,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.017 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 28,500,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 10,000,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 2,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 300,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 450,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 5,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 13,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 47,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 50,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 420,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 4,700,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.65 | 98,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 500,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

**APC Group Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. in the Sta Maria Room, 5th floor, of Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Ave. in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

**ANSCOR Consolidated Corp.** (ACC), a 100-percent owned subsidiary of A. Soriano Corp. (Anscor), bought 894,000 shares of Anscor on Sept. 27. ACC has a total of 712,110,777 shares of Anscor as of Sept. 28.

* * *

**PNOC EXPLORATION Corp.** elected the following executive officers for 2004-2005: Eduardo Mañalac, acting president and chief executive officer; Rafael Del Pilar, vice president/ chief operating officer and treasurer; Elpidio Gamboa Jr., general counsel and corporate secretary; and Jose Sta. Ana, Rose Mary Fe Pisueña and Joselito Santos, assistant corporate secretaries.

***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

September 28, 2004

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.813273 | 1.000000 | 56.4220 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007308 | 0.008986 | 0.5070 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.471454 | 1.809300 | 102.0843 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.104280 | 0.128223 | 7.2346 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.645045 | 0.793147 | 44.7509 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.639214 | 0.785978 | 44.3465 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.480799 | 0.591191 | 33.3562 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.580453 | 0.713725 | 40.2698 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.157337 | 2.652661 | 149.6684 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.216867 | 0.266660 | 15.0455 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.479383 | 0.589449 | 33.2579 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000089 | 0.000109 | 0.0061 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019593 | 0.024091 | 1.3593 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.221425 | 0.272264 | 15.3617 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.229600 | 69.3765 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.271770 | 0.334169 | 18.8545 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.283272 | 0.348311 | 19.6524 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134427 | 0.165292 | 9.3261 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017750 | 0.021825 | 1.2314 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.214025 | 0.263165 | 14.8483 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.071168 | 0.087508 | 4.9374 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.541892 | 0.666311 | 37.5946 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.119316 | 0.146711 | 8.2777 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013749 | 0.016906 | 0.9539 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.127480 | 0.156750 | 8.8441 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000708 | 0.000870 | 0.0491 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.110421 | 0.135774 | 7.6606 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.022510 | 0.027678 | 1.5616 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023991 | 0.029499 | 1.6644 |

# UBS downgrades Asian airlines as fuel bites

HONG KONG—Investment house UBS on Tuesday cut its ratings on several Asian airlines, including Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., as the industry reels from sky-high prices and bookings show signs of a slowdown.

UBS cut Cathay and China Southern Airlines Co. Ltd. to "neutral" from "buy," and China Eastern Airlines Corp. Ltd., South Korea's Asiana Airlines and Thai Airways International to "reduce" from "neutral."

"While we anticipate record growth rates in 2004, some of the pillars of 2005's outlook appear to be under pressure," analyst Timothy Ross said.

US crude oil futures broke a new record on Tuesday, on worries over supply disruptions from Nigeria and other major producers.

In addition to rising fuel prices that account for up to a quarter of an airline's operating costs, Ross said bookings had fallen for August and fares were dropping.

The global airline industry, only just recovering from last year's SARS outbreak and the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, stands to incur losses of between US$3 billion and US$4 billion this year as high oil prices wipe out profits, airline body IATA said on Monday. *Reuters*

# Hurricanes rip through US insurers' profit

NEW YORK—As Hurricane Jeanne fizzles out in north Florida, insurers are facing as much as $25 billion in claims from four major storms, likely making this year the most costly on record for hurricanes.

That may not bankrupt any insurance companies, but it will tear a hole in third-quarter and full-year profit.

"Certainly, most companies' earnings will be adversely affected by the storms, with anywhere from one quarter's to one year's earnings being absorbed by the losses," said Thomas Upton, a credit analyst at rating agency Standard & Poor's.

In the front line are car and home insurers which all said hurricane losses would cut profit even before Jeanne swept onshore this weekend.

Beyond them, a range of reinsurers in the United States, Bermuda and Europe will pick up a slice of the claims.

Jeanne will cause as much as $8 billion in claims, forecasters said on Monday. Together with Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan, insurers are looking at as much as $25 billion in claims, according to Risk Management Solutions.

If claims go that high, it would make this year the most expensive on record for storms, surpassing the $22 billion, adjusted for inflation, that insurers paid out for Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki in 1992. The S&P Insurance index slid 1.1 percent on Monday, adding to a steep decline over the past 10 days.

Almost every major property insurance company that does business in the southeast United States will get a hit from the hurricanes.

"Investors should expect the property-casualty insurers to be continuously pre-announcing hurricane losses," said A.G. Edwards insurance analyst Paul Newsome in a research note on Monday. *Reuters*

**A WOMAN** passes by an electric display of the stock price movement in Tokyo. Tokyo stocks yesterday plunged due to concerns about rising oil prices. AP

# Asia currencies fall on oil price increase

SINGAPORE—Asian currencies fell further on Tuesday as global oil prices surged to a record above $50 a barrel, hurting local stock markets.

The yen particularly felt the heat, underlining concerns about Japan's dependence on imported oil.

The Thai baht fell to 41.57 per dollar, its lowest in nearly three weeks, and the Indonesian rupiah dropped to a two-week trough of 9,230 a dollar.

Markets in Taiwan and South Korea were closed for holidays.

Concern over supplies and low fuel stocks pushed the price of crude oil up to over $50 a barrel. Most Asian countries, except Malaysia, are heavy importers of oil.

"Asia regional carry plays such as the rupee, rupiah and peso are underperforming as high oil prices threaten economic performance and policy credibility," Claudio Piron of JP Morgan said in a note.

The rise in oil prices cut short a rally in Asian currencies last week, eroding their gains as investors refocused on carry trades. In these carry trades, investors borrow and sell a low-yielding currency such as the yen to invest in high-yielders.

In Japan, analysts said that in addition to rising oil prices, the yen was under pressure from sagging Japanese share prices and jitters ahead of the release of the Bank of Japan's "tankan" survey of business sentiment.

The stock market's benchmark Nikkei average closed nearly half a percent lower, though recovering from a loss of over one percent in the morning, dragged down by oil.

Meanwhile, Thai markets were worried as the government conducted tests to determine whether there had been a case of human-to-human transmission of bird flu.

In Indonesia, political worries added to the pressure on the currency. With 91 percent of the presidential ballot counted, showing ex-Gen. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono could be the next president, financial markets were concerned about how strong his Cabinet would be and whether promised reforms could be pushed through. *Reuters*

# China shares sink on fears of mega stock offers

SHANGHAI—China shares dipped 0.58 percent on Tuesday morning as investors dumped companies that plan to raise cash through share sales, such as the country's top steel maker Baosteel.

The benchmark Shanghai composite index, grouping foreign-currency B shares and local-currency A shares, finished the morning at 1,419.065 points.

The index is still up 12.6 percent from two weeks ago, fanned by speculation of upcoming policies to aid a market that had trended downward since early April, when Beijing's effort to curb credit and slow the economy first took hold.

Baoshan Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. was one of the morning's most active stocks. Its A shares, open to select foreign investors, dropped 2.4 percent to 6.53 yuan.

The company said on Tuesday its shareholders had granted approval for it to issue shares in the country's largest fund-raising exercise, raising up to an estimated $3.7 billion, to buy mills and other assets from its parent.

It won shareholders' blessing after trimming the public tranche of that offering and suck less money out of beleaguered markets, though many investors remained opposed to the plans.

In a major step to boost the markets, regulators said on Monday it wanted listed firms to win votes from at least half their public shareholders before taking major actions such as new share issues, rights offers and convertible bond sales.

"Many investors believe the government will continue to take measures to boost the markets, but large stock offers in the pipeline are casting a shadow on sentiment," said Shenyin & Wanguo Securities analyst Qian Qimin. *Reuters*

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# REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

## REGIONS 5, 6 AND 7

## FY 2003

In Thousand Pesos

| | Class | Balance Sheet | | | Statement of Income and Expenses | | | | | | | | | % of Net Income to Total Income |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total Assets | Total Liabilities | Total Equity | Total Income | Rank * | | Total Expenses | Rank | | Net Income | Rank * | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | |
| **REGION 5** | | 4,950,262 | 1,195,324 | 3,754,938 | 3,963,642 | | | 3,464,975 | | | 498,667 | | | 13 |
| **Albay** | | 1,152,090 | 274,771 | 877,319 | 715,365 | | 2 | 578,377 | | 3 | 136,988 | | 1 | 19 |
| Bacacay | 3 | 63,391 | 7,795 | 55,596 | 46,469 | 8 | 25 | 32,435 | 9 | 45 | 14,034 | 4 | 6 | 30 |
| Camalig | 3 | 80,492 | 23,417 | 57,076 | 49,568 | 6 | 21 | 39,285 | 6 | 27 | 10,283 | 5 | 11 | 21 |
| Daraga | 1 | 218,903 | 103,032 | 115,871 | 110,674 | 1 | 1 | 91,005 | 1 | 1 | 19,669 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Guinobatan | 2 | 81,285 | 17,189 | 64,096 | 64,868 | 2 | 6 | 47,206 | 4 | 17 | 17,661 | 3 | 3 | 27 |
| Jovellar | 5 | 22,296 | 2,110 | 20,186 | 23,444 | 15 | 83 | 20,745 | 14 | 86 | 2,699 | 13 | 70 | 12 |
| Libon | 2 | 135,429 | 16,705 | 118,724 | 64,655 | 3 | 7 | 37,868 | 7 | 28 | 26,787 | 1 | 1 | 41 |
| Malilipot | 4 | 27,142 | 4,819 | 22,323 | 29,909 | 12 | 62 | 23,386 | 13 | 74 | 6,524 | 8 | 28 | 22 |
| Malinao | 4 | 26,016 | 4,272 | 21,743 | 33,709 | 10 | 65 | 31,316 | 10 | 48 | 2,393 | 15 | 74 | 7 |
| Manito | 4 | 44,519 | 3,727 | 40,792 | 26,607 | 14 | 73 | 20,686 | 15 | 87 | 5,921 | 9 | 32 | 22 |
| Oas | 3 | 75,785 | 33,818 | 41,967 | 54,595 | 5 | 15 | 50,517 | 3 | 12 | 4,078 | 12 | 48 | 7 |
| Pio Duran | 4 | 17,341 | 2,114 | 15,228 | 41,274 | 9 | 33 | 35,748 | 8 | 33 | 5,526 | 11 | 39 | 13 |
| Polangui | 2 | 89,964 | 21,926 | 68,038 | 61,288 | 4 | 11 | 55,631 | 2 | 10 | 5,657 | 10 | 36 | 9 |
| Rapu-rapu | 4 | 28,160 | 3,910 | 24,250 | 31,135 | 11 | 59 | 24,582 | 12 | 70 | 6,552 | 7 | 27 | 21 |
| Santo Domingo | 4 | 99,231 | 11,298 | 87,933 | 29,145 | 13 | 66 | 26,744 | 11 | 62 | 2,401 | 14 | 73 | 8 |
| Tiwi | 1 | 142,136 | 18,640 | 123,496 | 48,026 | 7 | 22 | 41,223 | 5 | 20 | 6,803 | 6 | 25 | 14 |
| **Camarines Norte** | | 617,817 | 114,222 | 503,596 | 492,098 | | 5 | 419,845 | | 5 | 72,254 | | 4 | 15 |
| Basud | 4 | 42,881 | 14,089 | 28,792 | 38,496 | 7 | 43 | 31,254 | 6 | 49 | 7,243 | 6 | 22 | 19 |
| Capalonga | 4 | 48,962 | 8,010 | 40,952 | 34,356 | 9 | 51 | 24,020 | 9 | 71 | 10,336 | 2 | 10 | 30 |
| Daet | 1 | 46,777 | 26,724 | 20,053 | 79,280 | 1 | 2 | 70,667 | 1 | 2 | 8,614 | 5 | 17 | 11 |
| Jose Panganiban | 3 | 52,471 | 7,109 | 45,362 | 46,223 | 3 | 27 | 50,447 | 3 | 13 | (4,224) | 12 | 106 | (9) |
| Labo | 1 | 127,810 | 8,867 | 118,943 | 79,008 | 2 | 3 | 63,595 | 2 | 5 | 15,414 | 1 | 5 | 20 |
| Mercedes | 4 | 54,670 | 9,030 | 45,639 | 39,806 | 4 | 36 | 34,942 | 4 | 39 | 4,864 | 8 | 44 | 12 |
| Paracale | 3 | 62,904 | 5,569 | 57,335 | 39,168 | 5 | 40 | 33,688 | 5 | 40 | 5,480 | 7 | 40 | 14 |
| San Lorenzo Ruiz | 5 | 18,771 | 3,656 | 15,115 | 20,185 | 11 | 97 | 16,646 | 11 | 100 | 3,539 | 9 | 53 | 18 |
| San Vicente | 5 | 12,117 | 2,307 | 9,810 | 15,713 | 12 | 106 | 14,100 | 12 | 105 | 1,612 | 10 | 82 | 10 |
| Santa Elena | 4 | 72,441 | 15,902 | 56,539 | 38,417 | 8 | 44 | 28,573 | 8 | 56 | 9,844 | 3 | 12 | 26 |
| Talisay | 5 | 28,231 | 6,511 | 21,720 | 22,816 | 10 | 89 | 21,979 | 10 | 79 | 837 | 11 | 92 | 4 |
| Vinzon | 4 | 49,782 | 6,448 | 43,335 | 38,628 | 6 | 42 | 29,934 | 7 | 53 | 8,695 | 4 | 16 | 23 |
| **Camarines Sur** | | 1,312,593 | 311,984 | 1,000,609 | 1,283,182 | | 1 | 1,169,595 | | 1 | 113,588 | | 2 | 9 |
| Baao | 4 | 37,823 | 3,763 | 34,060 | 39,372 | 12 | 38 | 36,180 | 13 | 31 | 3,191 | 16 | 58 | 8 |
| Balatan | 5 | 53,363 | 20,329 | 33,034 | 23,253 | 28 | 84 | 23,181 | 25 | 75 | 72 | 33 | 98 | 0 |
| Bato | 4 | 31,587 | 6,943 | 24,644 | 38,378 | 15 | 45 | 35,231 | 15 | 36 | 3,147 | 17 | 59 | 8 |
| Bombon | 5 | 25,352 | 5,382 | 19,969 | 16,559 | 34 | 105 | 15,605 | 34 | 103 | 954 | 31 | 91 | 6 |
| Buhi | 2 | 58,855 | 9,486 | 49,369 | 55,698 | 5 | 14 | 48,911 | 5 | 15 | 6,787 | 3 | 26 | 12 |
| Bula | 3 | 58,821 | 13,250 | 45,571 | 45,382 | 11 | 29 | 40,833 | 10 | 23 | 4,549 | 11 | 47 | 10 |
| Cabusao | 5 | 39,682 | 11,971 | 27,711 | 20,859 | 32 | 95 | 19,277 | 32 | 92 | 1,582 | 26 | 83 | 8 |
| Calabanga | 2 | 26,686 | 20,323 | 6,363 | 62,678 | 3 | 9 | 64,663 | 2 | 4 | (1,985) | 35 | 104 | (3) |
| Camaligan | 5 | 28,145 | 2,837 | 25,307 | 19,528 | 33 | 100 | 16,414 | 33 | 101 | 3,114 | 18 | 61 | 16 |
| Canaman | 4 | 37,144 | 3,189 | 33,954 | 25,861 | 26 | 77 | 24,694 | 24 | 69 | 1,168 | 30 | 89 | 5 |
| Caramoan | 4 | 18,973 | 4,604 | 14,369 | 39,025 | 14 | 41 | 37,663 | 12 | 30 | 1,362 | 29 | 88 | 3 |
| Del Gallego | 4 | 38,385 | 5,015 | 33,370 | 27,505 | 24 | 72 | 22,080 | 26 | 78 | 5,425 | 8 | 41 | 20 |
| Gainza | 5 | 13,191 | 2,876 | 10,316 | 14,909 | 35 | 107 | 13,188 | 35 | 107 | 1,721 | 25 | 81 | 12 |
| Garchitorena | 4 | 22,000 | 4,665 | 17,335 | 29,446 | 22 | 64 | 25,900 | 23 | 65 | 3,546 | 13 | 52 | 12 |
| Goa | 3 | 32,447 | 6,765 | 25,682 | 47,538 | 9 | 23 | 41,052 | 8 | 21 | 6,486 | 4 | 29 | 14 |
| Lagonoy | 3 | 29,851 | 4,949 | 24,903 | 46,393 | 10 | 26 | 40,506 | 11 | 24 | 5,889 | 6 | 33 | 13 |
| Libmanan | 1 | 68,208 | 29,858 | 38,350 | 71,398 | 1 | 4 | 65,854 | 1 | 3 | 5,544 | 7 | 38 | 8 |
| Lupi | 4 | 48,124 | 22,071 | 26,053 | 30,828 | 19 | 60 | 31,340 | 17 | 47 | (511) | 34 | 101 | (2) |
| Magarao | 5 | 19,888 | 2,850 | 17,039 | 22,920 | 31 | 88 | 19,714 | 31 | 90 | 3,206 | 15 | 57 | 14 |
| Milaor | 5 | 28,451 | 3,697 | 24,754 | 23,896 | 27 | 82 | 21,118 | 28 | 85 | 2,778 | 21 | 68 | 12 |
| Minalabac | 4 | 48,023 | 3,706 | 44,317 | 35,696 | 16 | 49 | 31,120 | 18 | 50 | 4,575 | 10 | 46 | 13 |
| Nabua | 2 | 64,489 | 24,255 | 40,235 | 63,806 | 2 | 8 | 61,241 | 3 | 7 | 2,565 | 22 | 72 | 4 |
| Ocampo | 4 | 18,640 | 2,009 | 16,631 | 32,761 | 18 | 57 | 30,839 | 19 | 51 | 1,922 | 24 | 79 | 6 |
| Pamplona | 4 | 18,460 | 3,090 | 15,371 | 30,191 | 20 | 61 | 27,339 | 21 | 61 | 2,852 | 19 | 65 | 9 |
| Pasacao | 4 | 38,057 | 16,920 | 21,138 | 39,176 | 13 | 39 | 35,529 | 14 | 34 | 3,647 | 12 | 51 | 9 |
| Pili | 2 | 78,543 | 13,065 | 65,478 | 62,253 | 4 | 10 | 58,731 | 4 | 8 | 3,522 | 14 | 54 | 6 |
| Presentacion | 5 | 19,553 | 6,638 | 12,916 | 23,119 | 29 | 85 | 21,693 | 27 | 80 | 1,426 | 28 | 86 | 6 |
| Ragay | 3 | 48,392 | 10,476 | 37,916 | 50,532 | 7 | 19 | 43,321 | 7 | 19 | 7,210 | 2 | 23 | 14 |
| Sagnay | 4 | 29,011 | 4,494 | 24,517 | 27,808 | 23 | 71 | 26,361 | 22 | 63 | 1,447 | 27 | 86 | 5 |
| San Fernando | 4 | 45,422 | 5,425 | 39,997 | 26,410 | 25 | 75 | 20,055 | 30 | 89 | 6,355 | 5 | 31 | 24 |
| San Jose | 4 | 22,947 | 3,916 | 19,032 | 29,707 | 21 | 63 | 27,588 | 20 | 59 | 2,119 | 23 | 77 | 7 |
| Sipocot | 2 | 50,436 | 8,591 | 41,845 | 52,773 | 6 | 17 | 47,526 | 6 | 16 | 5,247 | 9 | 42 | 10 |
| Siruma | 5 | 15,930 | 2,583 | 13,347 | 22,956 | 30 | 87 | 20,173 | 29 | 88 | 2,784 | 20 | 67 | 12 |
| Tigaon | 4 | 20,384 | 6,601 | 13,783 | 34,047 | 17 | 52 | 33,644 | 16 | 41 | 403 | 32 | 95 | 1 |
| Tinambac | 3 | 77,327 | 15,395 | 61,933 | 50,522 | 8 | 20 | 41,031 | 9 | 22 | 9,491 | 1 | 14 | 19 |
| **Catanduanes** | | 387,230 | 93,737 | 293,493 | 289,147 | | 6 | 266,238 | | 6 | 22,909 | | 6 | 8 |
| Bagamanoc | 5 | 16,695 | 1,623 | 15,071 | 17,135 | 10 | 103 | 16,699 | 10 | 99 | 436 | 9 | 94 | 3 |
| Baras | 5 | 23,155 | 8,459 | 14,695 | 19,814 | 8 | 98 | 19,698 | 7 | 91 | 116 | 10 | 97 | 1 |
| Bato | 5 | 21,469 | 3,661 | 17,808 | 20,401 | 7 | 96 | 18,028 | 8 | 95 | 2,373 | 4 | 75 | 12 |
| Caramoran | 4 | 31,370 | 6,677 | 24,693 | 31,948 | 3 | 58 | 25,122 | 3 | 66 | 6,826 | 1 | 24 | 21 |
| Gigmoto | 5 | 24,646 | 3,269 | 21,377 | 19,620 | 9 | 99 | 17,529 | 9 | 97 | 2,091 | 5 | 78 | 11 |
| Pandan | 5 | 35,464 | 7,603 | 27,860 | 22,963 | 5 | 86 | 21,425 | 5 | 83 | 1,538 | 6 | 84 | 7 |
| Panganiban | 5 | 4,914 | 1,550 | 3,364 | 16,892 | 11 | 104 | 15,873 | 11 | 102 | 1,019 | 8 | 90 | 6 |
| San Andres | 4 | 52,950 | 15,103 | 37,847 | 33,347 | 2 | 56 | 30,696 | 2 | 52 | 2,651 | 3 | 71 | 8 |
| San Miguel | 5 | 21,841 | 9,659 | 12,182 | 21,211 | 6 | 93 | 21,457 | 4 | 82 | (246) | 11 | 100 | (1) |
| Viga | 4 | 16,721 | 3,376 | 13,344 | 25,913 | 4 | 76 | 21,190 | 6 | 84 | 4,724 | 2 | 45 | 18 |
| Virac | 2 | 138,006 | 32,756 | 105,251 | 59,902 | 1 | 13 | 58,520 | 1 | 9 | 1,381 | 7 | 87 | 2 |
| **Masbate** | | 909,567 | 200,048 | 709,519 | 682,625 | | 3 | 587,138 | | 2 | 95,488 | | 3 | 14 |
| Aroroy | 2 | 111,048 | 45,631 | 65,417 | 59,932 | 1 | 12 | 62,596 | 1 | 6 | (2,664) | 19 | 105 | (4) |
| Baleno | 4 | 27,426 | 13,126 | 14,299 | 28,864 | 13 | 69 | 24,985 | 13 | 67 | 3,879 | 11 | 49 | 13 |
| Balud | 4 | 38,414 | 3,257 | 35,157 | 33,713 | 10 | 54 | 34,992 | 6 | 37 | (1,278) | 18 | 103 | (4) |
| Batuan | 5 | 17,581 | 1,829 | 15,763 | 18,480 | 20 | 102 | 16,734 | 19 | 98 | 1,747 | 16 | 80 | 9 |
| Cataingan | 3 | 55,894 | 6,527 | 49,366 | 45,319 | 4 | 30 | 35,493 | 5 | 35 | 9,826 | 4 | 13 | 22 |
| Cawayan | 3 | 39,111 | 12,998 | 26,113 | 45,418 | 3 | 28 | 45,237 | 2 | 18 | 181 | 17 | 96 | 0 |
| Claveria | 4 | 49,084 | 4,965 | 44,119 | 38,258 | 8 | 46 | 27,809 | 11 | 58 | 10,449 | 3 | 9 | 27 |
| Dimasalang | 5 | 30,166 | 9,193 | 20,973 | 25,333 | 15 | 78 | 22,193 | 15 | 77 | 3,140 | 13 | 60 | 12 |
| Esperanza | 5 | 18,464 | 1,853 | 16,611 | 21,047 | 19 | 94 | 17,547 | 18 | 96 | 3,500 | 12 | 55 | 17 |
| Mandaon | 4 | 48,277 | 10,988 | 37,290 | 35,800 | 9 | 48 | 29,428 | 9 | 54 | 6,372 | 8 | 30 | 18 |
| Milagros | 3 | 101,699 | 22,622 | 79,077 | 53,008 | 2 | 16 | 36,123 | 4 | 32 | 16,883 | 1 | 4 | 32 |
| Mobo | 4 | 18,925 | 2,710 | 16,215 | 29,385 | 11 | 65 | 23,736 | 14 | 72 | 5,648 | 10 | 37 | 19 |
| Monreal | 5 | 31,533 | 7,890 | 23,642 | 24,057 | 17 | 81 | 18,244 | 17 | 94 | 5,813 | 9 | 34 | 24 |
| Palanas | 4 | 31,254 | 4,728 | 26,526 | 28,905 | 12 | 68 | 25,906 | 12 | 64 | 2,998 | 14 | 62 | 10 |
| Pio V. Corpuz | 4 | 25,213 | 4,029 | 21,185 | 24,515 | 16 | 80 | 21,623 | 16 | 81 | 2,892 | 15 | 64 | 12 |
| Placer | 4 | 51,297 | 11,338 | 39,958 | 41,280 | 5 | 32 | 33,213 | 7 | 42 | 8,067 | 7 | 19 | 20 |
| San Fernando | UN | 28,328 | 3,138 | 25,190 | 22,800 | 18 | 90 | 13,435 | 20 | 106 | 9,365 | 5 | 15 | 41 |
| San Jacinto | 4 | 58,234 | 9,594 | 48,640 | 26,508 | 14 | 74 | 37,737 | 3 | 29 | (11,228) | 20 | 107 | (42) |
| San Pascual | 4 | 75,576 | 11,429 | 64,148 | 40,366 | 6 | 35 | 32,253 | 8 | 46 | 8,114 | 6 | 18 | 20 |
| Uson | 4 | 52,041 | 12,202 | 39,839 | 39,639 | 7 | 37 | 27,855 | 10 | 57 | 11,784 | 2 | 8 | 30 |
| **Sorsogon** | | 570,965 | 200,562 | 370,402 | 501,224 | | 4 | 443,784 | | 4 | 57,440 | | 5 | 11 |
| Barcelona | 5 | 12,378 | 2,038 | 10,340 | 22,284 | 12 | 91 | 18,408 | 13 | 93 | 3,876 | 6 | 50 | 17 |
| Bulan | 1 | 105,225 | 46,981 | 58,244 | 68,382 | 1 | 5 | 54,946 | 1 | 11 | 13,436 | 1 | 7 | 20 |
| Bulusan | 5 | 27,120 | 7,049 | 20,071 | 24,578 | 11 | 79 | 24,783 | 10 | 68 | (205) | 13 | 99 | (1) |
| Casiguran | 4 | 84,341 | 32,217 | 52,124 | 29,240 | 9 | 67 | 23,531 | 11 | 73 | 5,709 | 4 | 35 | 20 |
| Castilla | 4 | 48,806 | 12,593 | 36,213 | 40,554 | 5 | 34 | 32,754 | 6 | 43 | 7,799 | 2 | 20 | 19 |
| Donsol | 4 | 27,670 | 5,581 | 22,089 | 37,328 | 6 | 47 | 34,512 | 5 | 39 | 2,817 | 9 | 66 | 8 |
| Gubat | 3 | 49,251 | 10,413 | 38,838 | 47,264 | 3 | 24 | 39,951 | 3 | 26 | 7,312 | 3 | 21 | 15 |
| Irosin | 3 | 52,948 | 12,709 | 40,239 | 41,650 | 4 | 31 | 39,450 | 4 | 28 | 2,200 | 11 | 76 | 5 |
| Juban | 4 | 16,922 | 3,420 | 13,502 | 28,264 | 10 | 70 | 27,541 | 9 | 60 | 722 | 12 | 93 | 3 |
| Magallanes | 4 | 42,831 | 28,319 | 14,512 | 33,973 | 8 | 53 | 28,803 | 8 | 55 | 5,170 | 5 | 43 | 15 |
| Matnog | 4 | 48,822 | 19,631 | 29,192 | 35,257 | 7 | 50 | 32,521 | 7 | 44 | 2,736 | 10 | 69 | 8 |
| Pilar | 3 | 24,392 | 13,146 | 11,246 | 52,004 | 2 | 18 | 49,026 | 2 | 14 | 2,978 | 8 | 63 | 6 |
| Prieto Diaz | 5 | 10,060 | 3,729 | 6,330 | 21,808 | 13 | 92 | 22,324 | 12 | 76 | (516) | 14 | 102 | (2) |
| Sta. Magdalena | 5 | 20,200 | 2,737 | 17,463 | 18,631 | 14 | 101 | 15,234 | 14 | 104 | 3,397 | 7 | 56 | 18 |
| **REGION 6** | | 5,672,395 | 1,370,167 | 4,302,228 | 4,172,260 | | | 3,681,355 | | | 490,905 | | | 12 |
| **Aklan** | | 647,273 | 134,105 | 513,168 | 524,978 | | 4 | 449,987 | | 5 | 74,992 | | 3 | 14 |
| Altavas | 4 | 17,316 | 5,552 | 11,763 | 26,270 | 11 | 92 | 22,819 | 12 | 94 | 3,459 | 10 | 66 | 13 |
| Balete | 4 | 65,938 | 18,057 | 47,880 | 33,429 | 6 | 57 | 28,745 | 5 | 62 | 4,684 | 5 | 34 | 14 |
| Banga | 4 | 51,573 | 5,495 | 46,077 | 31,756 | 7 | 65 | 24,646 | 8 | 82 | 7,109 | 3 | 17 | 22 |
| Batan | 4 | 10,523 | 3,304 | 7,219 | 27,037 | 9 | 86 | 22,982 | 11 | 93 | 4,055 | 7 | 48 | 15 |
| Buruanga | 5 | 55,430 | 1,726 | 53,704 | 21,263 | 15 | 108 | 18,171 | 15 | 110 | 3,091 | 11 | 74 | 15 |
| Ibajay | 4 | 40,042 | 17,931 | 22,111 | 38,353 | 4 | 45 | 33,613 | 3 | 43 | 4,740 | 4 | 33 | 12 |
| Kalibo | 1 | 97,876 | 23,029 | 74,846 | 79,808 | 1 | 1 | 67,731 | 1 | 1 | 12,077 | 2 | 6 | 15 |
| Lezo | 5 | 18,812 | 8,511 | 10,302 | 17,500 | 16 | 113 | 15,384 | 16 | 114 | 2,116 | 15 | 85 | 12 |
| Libacao | 4 | 39,642 | 3,649 | 35,993 | 8,246 | 17 | 116 | 9,625 | 17 | 115 | (1,379) | 17 | 114 | (16) |
| Madalag | 4 | 17,012 | 4,883 | 12,129 | 28,251 | 8 | 81 | 25,955 | 6 | 74 | 2,296 | 14 | 81 | 8 |
| Makato | 4 | 18,165 | 5,420 | 12,745 | 25,317 | 13 | 98 | 23,271 | 10 | 90 | 2,047 | 16 | 86 | 8 |
| Malay | 4 | 55,058 | 8,823 | 46,235 | 39,054 | 2 | 41 | 35,241 | 2 | 38 | 3,813 | 8 | 55 | 10 |
| Malinao | 4 | 45,830 | 9,998 | 35,832 | 35,507 | 5 | 61 | 31,383 | 4 | 47 | 4,124 | 6 | 47 | 12 |
| Nabas | 4 | 21,292 | 1,765 | 19,527 | 26,957 | 10 | 87 | 24,196 | 9 | 86 | 2,762 | 13 | 77 | 10 |
| New Washington | 4 | 49,678 | 7,197 | 42,481 | 38,604 | 3 | 42 | 25,082 | 7 | 78 | 13,522 | 1 | 3 | 35 |
| Numancia | 4 | 16,844 | 4,996 | 11,849 | 25,650 | 12 | 96 | 22,790 | 13 | 95 | 2,860 | 12 | 76 | 11 |
| Tangalan | 5 | 26,346 | 3,871 | 22,476 | 21,968 | 14 | 107 | 18,453 | 14 | 109 | 3,516 | 9 | 63 | 16 |
| **Antique** | | 737,921 | 215,318 | 522,603 | 559,953 | | 3 | 496,132 | | 3 | 63,821 | | 4 | 11 |
| Anini-y | 5 | 21,961 | 11,302 | 10,660 | 23,145 | 16 | 104 | 23,158 | 13 | 91 | (13) | 17 | 111 | (0) |
| Barbaza | 5 | 12,541 | 3,787 | 8,754 | 25,939 | 14 | 95 | 24,124 | 12 | 87 | 1,815 | 12 | 90 | 7 |
| Belison | 5 | 6,941 | 2,503 | 4,438 | 17,190 | 18 | 114 | 16,526 | 18 | 112 | 664 | 16 | 108 | 4 |
| Bugasong | 4 | 49,518 | 7,562 | 41,955 | 33,890 | 6 | 66 | 29,973 | 6 | 67 | 3,917 | 8 | 62 | 12 |
| Caluya | 4 | 52,860 | 12,965 | 39,895 | 28,476 | 11 | 76 | 24,547 | 11 | 85 | 3,930 | 7 | 61 | 14 |
| Culasi | 4 | 31,881 | 5,614 | 26,267 | 37,592 | 4 | 47 | 34,285 | 3 | 41 | 3,307 | 11 | 66 | 9 |
| Hamtic | 4 | 33,779 | 16,884 | 16,895 | 34,292 | 5 | 66 | 32,597 | 4 | 45 | 1,695 | 13 | 93 | 5 |
| Laua-an | 4 | 33,436 | 6,124 | 27,312 | 25,972 | 13 | 94 | 22,342 | 15 | 96 | 3,630 | 9 | 69 | 14 |
| Libertad | 5 | 22,436 | 6,092 | 16,344 | 20,459 | 17 | 110 | 21,724 | 16 | 101 | (1,266) | 18 | 113 | (6) |
| Pandan | 4 | 45,865 | 21,469 | 24,396 | 29,299 | 9 | 73 | 27,700 | 8 | 68 | 1,599 | 14 | 96 | 5 |
| Patnongon | 4 | 45,761 | 1,978 | 43,782 | 33,398 | 7 | 58 | 29,846 | 7 | 58 | 3,552 | 10 | 61 | 11 |
| San Jose | 3 | 89,877 | 33,509 | 56,369 | 55,528 | 1 | 9 | 45,339 | 1 | 17 | 10,189 | 1 | 9 | 18 |
| San Remegio | 4 | 61,508 | 10,441 | 51,067 | 39,951 | 3 | 38 | 30,683 | 5 | 60 | 9,268 | 2 | 12 | 23 |
| Sebaste | 5 | 18,370 | 5,313 | 13,057 | 22,011 | 15 | 106 | 20,595 | 17 | 104 | 1,416 | 15 | 99 | 6 |
| Sibalom | 3 | 76,072 | 20,097 | 55,776 | 46,304 | 2 | 24 | 39,510 | 2 | 27 | 6,794 | 3 | 18 | 15 |
| Tibiao | 4 | 51,771 | 12,850 | 38,920 | 28,066 | 12 | 82 | 22,966 | 14 | 92 | 5,100 | 4 | 31 | 18 |
| Tobias Fornier | 4 | 32,708 | 10,006 | 22,702 | 29,320 | 8 | 72 | 26,317 | 9 | 77 | 4,003 | 6 | 60 | 14 |
| Valderrama | 4 | 50,847 | 26,832 | 24,015 | 29,100 | 10 | 76 | 24,882 | 10 | 79 | 4,219 | 5 | 43 | 14 |
| **Capiz** | | 584,967 | 91,189 | 493,778 | 507,761 | | 5 | 466,404 | | 4 | 41,357 | | 5 | 8 |
| Cuartero | 4 | 31,114 | 2,005 | 29,110 | 28,427 | 12 | 79 | 26,660 | 11 | 72 | 1,767 | 11 | 92 | 6 |
| Dao | 4 | 20,982 | 4,360 | 16,622 | 30,495 | 9 | 69 | 30,157 | 9 | 54 | 338 | 16 | 110 | 1 |
| Dumalag | 4 | 41,093 | 6,833 | 34,260 | 28,281 | 13 | 80 | 24,820 | 12 | 81 | 3,461 | 7 | 64 | 12 |
| Dumarao | 3 | 41,944 | 10,896 | 31,048 | 39,782 | 3 | 39 | 35,755 | 4 | 36 | 4,027 | 3 | 49 | 10 |
| Ivisan | 4 | 52,625 | 5,026 | 47,599 | - | | | - | | | - | | | |
| Jamindan | 4 | 22,334 | 533 | 21,801 | 41,268 | 2 | 34 | 38,844 | 2 | 29 | 2,425 | 9 | 79 | 6 |
| Maayon | 4 | 37,149 | 5,141 | 32,008 | 31,863 | 8 | 62 | 30,664 | 8 | 52 | 1,200 | 13 | 104 | 4 |
| Mambusao | 4 | 29,231 | 1,409 | 27,823 | 26,383 | 15 | 90 | 22,191 | 15 | 97 | 4,193 | 2 | 44 | 16 |
| Panay | 4 | 32,216 | 6,666 | 25,550 | 36,768 | 6 | 40 | 34,606 | 6 | 40 | 2,162 | 10 | 84 | 6 |
| Panitan | 4 | 41,131 | 7,827 | 33,304 | 36,239 | 6 | 60 | 31,040 | 6 | 40 | 5,199 | 1 | 29 | 14 |
| Pilar | 4 | 47,809 | 3,183 | 44,627 | 34,512 | 7 | 64 | 30,846 | 7 | 49 | 3,667 | 6 | 58 | 11 |
| Pontevedra | 3 | 24,179 | 8,499 | 15,680 | 38,530 | 4 | 43 | 38,020 | 3 | 31 | 510 | 14 | 109 | 1 |
| Pres. Roxas | 4 | 40,755 | 12,748 | 28,007 | 28,427 | 11 | 78 | 27,067 | 10 | 70 | 1,370 | 12 | 100 | 5 |
| Sapian | 4 | 42,718 | 2,667 | 40,051 | 27,293 | 14 | 84 | 23,401 | 14 | 80 | 3,892 | 4 | 63 | 14 |
| Sigma | 4 | 44,309 | 6,616 | 38,693 | 28,435 | 10 | 77 | 24,550 | 13 | 84 | 3,885 | 5 | 64 | 14 |
| Tapaz | 3 | 35,477 | 7,782 | 27,695 | 51,056 | 1 | 14 | 47,794 | 1 | 11 | 3,262 | 8 | 70 | 6 |
| **Guimaras** | | 203,622 | 42,626 | 160,996 | 131,563 | | 6 | 110,930 | | 6 | 20,634 | | 6 | 16 |
| Buenavista | 4 | 57,758 | 11,429 | 46,329 | 40,842 | 1 | 36 | 30,022 | 2 | 66 | 10,821 | 1 | 8 | 26 |
| Jordan | 4 | 43,760 | 8,713 | 35,047 | 35,456 | 2 | 52 | 34,607 | 1 | 39 | 849 | 4 | 107 | 2 |
| Nueva Valencia | 4 | 72,262 | 13,096 | 59,166 | 33,104 | 3 | 61 | 25,963 | 3 | 73 | 7,141 | 2 | 18 | 22 |
| San Lorenzo | 5 | 29,852 | 9,387 | 20,465 | 22,161 | 4 | 105 | 20,338 | 4 | 106 | 1,823 | 3 | 89 | 8 |
| Sibunag | 5 | - | - | - | - | | | - | | | - | | | |
| **Iloilo** | | 1,954,411 | 442,000 | 1,512,411 | 1,548,169 | | | 1,373,611 | | | 174,558 | | | 11 |
| Ajuy | 4 | 54,560 | 10,693 | 43,867 | 42,166 | 16 | 30 | 36,632 | 17 | 34 | 5,536 | 10 | 27 | 13 |
| Alimodian | 4 | 40,346 | 11,054 | 29,492 | 44,992 | 12 | 27 | 45,532 | 7 | 16 | (540) | 42 | 112 | (1) |
| Anilao | 4 | 29,046 | 7,176 | 21,869 | 27,406 | 31 | 81 | 25,634 | 31 | 70 | 1,772 | 35 | 91 | 6 |
| Badiangan | 5 | 40,414 | 7,736 | 32,678 | 24,785 | 36 | 99 | 21,503 | 36 | 102 | 3,282 | 24 | 67 | 13 |
| Balasan | 4 | 31,482 | 6,233 | 25,249 | 27,122 | 32 | 85 | 25,927 | 30 | 75 | 1,195 | 40 | 105 | 4 |
| Banate | 4 | 32,429 | 6,079 | 26,350 | 30,963 | 27 | 67 | 27,338 | 28 | 69 | 3,626 | 22 | 60 | 12 |
| Barotac Nuevo | 3 | 42,156 | 699 | 41,558 | 45,954 | 10 | 25 | 41,338 | 10 | 23 | 4,615 | 13 | 35 | 10 |
| Barotac Viejo | 4 | 59,583 | 9,643 | 49,940 | 39,371 | 20 | 40 | 32,838 | 20 | 44 | 6,532 | 5 | 19 | 17 |
| Batad | 5 | 14,049 | 2,671 | 11,378 | 20,771 | 40 | 109 | 18,875 | 39 | 107 | 1,896 | 34 | 88 | 9 |
| Bingawan | 5 | 17,008 | 1,871 | 15,137 | 19,324 | 41 | 111 | 16,765 | 41 | 111 | 2,559 | 29 | 78 | 13 |
| Cabatuan | 4 | 95,551 | 17,060 | 78,491 | 42,151 | 16 | 31 | 38,866 | 13 | 28 | 3,285 | 25 | 68 | 8 |
| Calinog | 2 | 75,079 | 21,221 | 53,859 | 53,266 | 3 | 10 | 51,715 | 2 | 8 | 1,551 | 37 | 98 | 3 |
| Carles | 4 | 37,412 | 17,891 | 19,521 | 44,721 | 13 | 28 | 38,658 | 14 | 30 | 6,063 | 7 | 22 | 14 |
| Concepcion | 4 | 39,858 | 8,819 | 31,039 | 33,174 | 23 | 60 | 31,933 | 21 | 46 | 1,242 | 39 | 102 | 4 |
| Dingle | 4 | 66,312 | 8,739 | 57,572 | 39,985 | 19 | 37 | 30,650 | 22 | 53 | 9,335 | 3 | 11 | 23 |
| Duenas | 4 | 38,356 | 3,692 | 34,664 | 31,759 | 25 | 64 | 27,350 | 27 | 68 | 4,410 | 19 | 42 | 14 |
| Dumangas | 3 | 121,674 | 12,138 | 109,536 | 52,320 | 5 | 13 | 46,420 | 4 | 13 | 5,900 | 8 | 25 | 11 |
| Estancia | 4 | 20,366 | 3,301 | 17,065 | 37,895 | 21 | 46 | 34,192 | 19 | 42 | 3,703 | 21 | 57 | 10 |
| Guimbal | 4 | 58,410 | 16,033 | 42,378 | 30,661 | 28 | 68 | 29,305 | 25 | 60 | 1,356 | 38 | 101 | 4 |
| Igbaras | 4 | 27,401 | 6,425 | 20,976 | 30,966 | 26 | 66 | 26,802 | 29 | 71 | 4,164 | 20 | 45 | 13 |
| Janiuay | 2 | 81,169 | 22,310 | 58,859 | 49,627 | 6 | 17 | 48,046 | 3 | 10 | 1,582 | 36 | 97 | 3 |
| Lambunao | 2 | 58,989 | 5,391 | 53,598 | 53,030 | 4 | 11 | 52,163 | 1 | 7 | 866 | 41 | 106 | 2 |
| Leganes | 4 | 49,440 | 23,880 | 25,559 | 29,117 | 30 | 74 | 24,632 | 32 | 83 | 4,484 | 16 | 38 | 15 |
| Lemery | 4 | 27,096 | 10,011 | 17,085 | 26,570 | 33 | 88 | 23,416 | 33 | 88 | 3,154 | 28 | 73 | 12 |
| Leon | 4 | 49,786 | 6,021 | 43,765 | 41,158 | 18 | 35 | 36,722 | 16 | 33 | 4,437 | 17 | 40 | 11 |
| Maasin | 4 | 38,471 | 7,184 | 31,287 | 31,821 | 24 | 63 | 29,812 | 24 | 59 | 2,010 | 33 | 87 | 6 |
| Miag-ao | 3 | 68,537 | 22,810 | 45,727 | 49,085 | 7 | 18 | 44,579 | 8 | 19 | 4,506 | 15 | 37 | 9 |
| Mina | 5 | 51,976 | 9,404 | 42,572 | 23,952 | 38 | 101 | 18,631 | 40 | 108 | 5,321 | 11 | 28 | 22 |
| New Lucena | 5 | 32,025 | 5,513 | 26,512 | 23,919 | 39 | 102 | 19,322 | 38 | 106 | 4,597 | 14 | 36 | 19 |
| Oton | 2 | 63,533 | 10,168 | 53,365 | 59,058 | 1 | 7 | 46,005 | 5 | 14 | 13,053 | 1 | 4 | 22 |
| Pavia | 4 | 53,927 | 24,145 | 29,782 | 47,063 | 8 | 21 | 37,854 | 15 | 32 | 9,209 | 4 | 14 | 20 |
| Pototan | 2 | 72,277 | 14,838 | 57,439 | 57,610 | 2 | 8 | 45,896 | 6 | 15 | 11,714 | 2 | 7 | 20 |
| San Dionisio | 4 | 30,017 | 2,859 | 27,158 | 30,113 | 29 | 71 | 27,779 | 26 | 65 | 2,333 | 30 | 80 | 8 |
| San Enrique | 4 | 22,324 | 11,986 | 10,338 | 33,276 | 22 | 59 | 30,070 | 23 | 56 | 3,206 | 26 | 71 | 10 |
| San Joaquin | 3 | 51,262 | 8,600 | 42,662 | 44,356 | 14 | 29 | 39,941 | 12 | 26 | 4,414 | 18 | 41 | 10 |
| San Miguel | 5 | 27,811 | 7,300 | 20,511 | 25,431 | 35 | 97 | 21,884 | 34 | 99 | 3,546 | 23 | 62 | 14 |
| San Rafael | 5 | 20,030 | 5,834 | 14,196 | 18,588 | 42 | 112 | 16,343 | 42 | 113 | 2,245 | 31 | 82 | 12 |
| Sta. Barbara | 3 | 68,458 | 22,681 | 45,777 | 47,025 | 9 | 22 | 41,299 | 11 | 24 | 5,726 | 9 | 26 | 12 |
| Sara | 3 | 53,492 | 23,503 | 29,988 | 45,252 | 11 | 26 | 42,080 | 9 | 21 | 3,172 | 27 | 72 | 7 |
| Tigbauan | 4 | 36,137 | 7,441 | 28,697 | 42,125 | 17 | 32 | 35,760 | 18 | 35 | 6,365 | 6 | 20 | 15 |
| Tubungan | 5 | 24,587 | 4,277 | 20,309 | 24,036 | 37 | 100 | 21,800 | 35 | 100 | 2,235 | 32 | 83 | 9 |
| Zarraga | 4 | 31,576 | 5,972 | 25,603 | 26,203 | 34 | 93 | 21,281 | 37 | 103 | 4,922 | 12 | 32 | 19 |
| **Negros Occidental** | | 1,544,200 | 444,929 | 1,099,272 | 899,836 | | 2 | 784,291 | | 2 | 115,545 | | 2 | 13 |
| Binalbagan | 2 | 106,427 | 38,479 | 67,948 | 59,967 | 5 | 6 | 57,020 | 3 | 4 | 2,947 | 15 | 75 | 5 |
| Calatrava | 1 | 174,037 | 42,836 | 131,200 | 74,380 | 2 | 3 | 57,968 | 2 | 3 | 16,412 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| Candoni | 4 | 31,230 | 7,027 | 24,203 | 26,480 | 17 | 89 | 24,872 | 18 | 80 | 1,609 | 17 | 95 | 6 |
| Cauayan | 1 | 176,823 | 44,177 | 132,646 | 75,990 | 1 | 2 | 63,161 | 1 | 2 | 12,829 | 3 | 5 | 17 |
| E B Magalona | 3 | 85,535 | 17,970 | 67,566 | 50,882 | 7 | 15 | 44,907 | 8 | 18 | 5,976 | 9 | 24 | 12 |
| Hinigaran | 2 | 97,430 | 54,839 | 42,591 | 72,404 | 3 | 4 | 56,895 | 4 | 5 | 15,509 | 2 | 2 | 21 |
| Hinobaan | 3 | 73,577 | 28,230 | 45,348 | 50,856 | 8 | 16 | 47,086 | 7 | 12 | 3,771 | 13 | 56 | 7 |
| Ilog | 3 | 67,241 | 25,613 | 41,627 | 47,228 | 10 | 20 | 42,784 | 9 | 20 | 4,444 | 11 | 39 | 9 |
| Isabela | 3 | 117,834 | 20,536 | 97,298 | 47,433 | 9 | 19 | 40,104 | 11 | 25 | 7,328 | 6 | 15 | 15 |
| La Castellana | 2 | 58,563 | 24,074 | 34,489 | 52,804 | 6 | 12 | 49,540 | 6 | 9 | 3,264 | 14 | 69 | 6 |
| Manapla | 4 | 75,477 | 27,762 | 47,715 | 46,857 | 11 | 23 | 41,713 | 10 | 22 | 5,144 | 10 | 30 | 11 |
| M Padilla | 3 | 80,521 | 21,467 | 59,054 | 36,830 | 14 | 48 | 27,465 | 17 | 67 | 9,365 | 4 | 10 | 25 |
| Murcia | 2 | 91,433 | 31,743 | 59,690 | 62,981 | 4 | 5 | 56,836 | 5 | 6 | 6,145 | 7 | 21 | 10 |
| Pontevedra | 3 | 93,495 | 20,758 | 72,738 | 41,486 | 12 | 33 | 35,478 | 12 | 37 | 6,009 | 8 | 23 | 14 |
| Pulupandan | 4 | 35,537 | 6,787 | 28,749 | 34,816 | 15 | 53 | 30,663 | 13 | 51 | 4,153 | 12 | 46 | 12 |
| S. Benedicto | 5 | 44,500 | 8,238 | 36,261 | 26,359 | 18 | 91 | 27,828 | 16 | 64 | (1,469) | 19 | 115 | (6) |
| San Enrique | 5 | 26,171 | 4,407 | 21,764 | 23,219 | 19 | 103 | 21,982 | 19 | 98 | 1,237 | 18 | 103 | 5 |
| Toboso | 4 | 73,268 | 10,642 | 62,625 | 38,520 | 13 | 44 | 29,302 | 14 | 61 | 9,219 | 5 | 13 | 24 |
| Valladolid | 4 | 35,102 | 9,342 | 25,760 | 30,342 | 16 | 70 | 28,689 | 15 | 63 | 1,653 | 16 | 94 | 5 |
| **REGION 7** | | 6,628,698 | 1,429,064 | 5,199,634 | 4,117,583 | | | 3,402,878 | | | 714,705 | | | 17 |
| **Bohol** | | 1,915,729 | 458,326 | 1,457,403 | 1,325,761 | | 2 | 1,137,607 | | 2 | 188,154 | | 2 | 14 |
| Albuquerque | 5 | 17,666 | 3,448 | 14,218 | 15,713 | 44 | 116 | 14,411 | 46 | 116 | 1,302 | 39 | 108 | 8 |
| Alicia | 5 | 31,391 | 9,381 | 22,011 | 25,497 | 25 | 78 | 23,124 | 23 | 72 | 2,373 | 29 | 91 | 9 |
| Anda | 5 | 5,951 | 1,219 | 4,732 | 22,133 | 34 | 96 | 19,902 | 31 | 89 | 2,231 | 32 | 94 | 10 |
| Antequera | 5 | 33,791 | 2,216 | 31,576 | 25,473 | 26 | 79 | 21,539 | 28 | 81 | 3,935 | 14 | 64 | 15 |
| Baclayon | 5 | 46,797 | 5,134 | 41,663 | 21,890 | 36 | 97 | 16,638 | 41 | 109 | 6,252 | 9 | 43 | 29 |
| Balilihan | 5 | 38,510 | 4,987 | 33,523 | 25,277 | 28 | 81 | 22,171 | 26 | 77 | 3,107 | 21 | 78 | 12 |
| Batuan | 5 | 23,429 | 4,622 | 18,807 | 18,279 | 42 | 111 | 14,804 | 42 | 112 | 3,475 | 18 | 71 | 19 |
| Bien Unido | 5 | 22,125 | 2,244 | 19,881 | 22,314 | 33 | 94 | 19,359 | 33 | 91 | 2,955 | 23 | 83 | 13 |
| Bilar | 5 | 33,840 | 14,198 | 19,642 | 25,965 | 24 | 77 | 24,762 | 16 | 55 | 1,203 | 41 | 110 | 5 |
| Buenavista | 4 | 32,802 | 8,650 | 24,152 | 28,955 | 16 | 58 | 26,543 | 12 | 60 | 2,412 | 28 | 90 | 8 |
| Calape | 4 | 73,043 | 8,240 | 64,803 | 30,913 | 12 | 51 | 29,148 | 9 | 39 | 1,766 | 36 | 100 | 6 |
| Candijay | 4 | 25,417 | 4,618 | 20,799 | 30,102 | 14 | 54 | 28,691 | 10 | 40 | 1,412 | 38 | 106 | 5 |
| Carmen | 2 | 108,088 | 41,168 | 66,920 | 51,183 | 4 | 23 | 36,316 | 5 | 26 | 14,868 | 2 | 10 | 29 |
| Catigbian | 5 | 36,360 | 8,150 | 27,210 | 25,399 | 27 | 80 | 24,333 | 18 | 59 | 1,066 | 43 | 113 | 4 |
| Clarin | 5 | 25,100 | 1,661 | 23,439 | 20,713 | 39 | 105 | 19,492 | 32 | 90 | 1,221 | 40 | 109 | 6 |
| Corella | 5 | 16,785 | 4,213 | 12,572 | 16,188 | 43 | 115 | 14,770 | 43 | 113 | 1,417 | 37 | 105 | 9 |
| Cortes | 5 | 12,385 | 3,229 | 9,155 | 20,733 | 38 | 104 | 18,386 | 38 | 100 | 2,348 | 31 | 93 | 11 |
| Dagohoy | 5 | 34,000 | 9,013 | 24,987 | 21,391 | 36 | 99 | 18,717 | 36 | 96 | 2,674 | 25 | 87 | 13 |
| Danao | 5 | 42,830 | 7,636 | 35,194 | 36,686 | 7 | 38 | 24,174 | 20 | 62 | 12,511 | 4 | 15 | 34 |
| Dauis | 4 | 31,240 | 8,787 | 22,453 | 27,883 | 19 | 67 | 24,207 | 19 | 61 | 3,676 | 16 | 67 | 13 |
| Dimiao | 5 | 29,491 | 4,999 | 24,492 | 22,883 | 29 | 87 | 20,102 | 29 | 87 | 2,781 | 24 | 86 | 12 |
| Duero | 5 | 22,419 | 14,984 | 7,435 | 22,566 | 31 | 90 | 21,828 | 27 | 79 | 738 | 45 | 115 | 3 |
| Garcia-Hernandez | 4 | 42,015 | 6,072 | 35,943 | 29,939 | 15 | 56 | 24,872 | 15 | 54 | 5,067 | 12 | 51 | 17 |
| Getafe | 4 | 52,907 | 29,409 | 23,498 | 31,228 | 11 | 50 | 32,684 | 7 | 32 | (1,456) | 46 | 119 | (5) |
| Guindulman | 4 | 33,365 | 6,844 | 26,521 | 30,758 | 13 | 52 | 24,355 | 17 | 58 | 6,403 | 8 | 41 | 21 |
| Inabanga | 4 | 73,844 | 19,960 | 53,886 | 38,785 | 6 | 32 | 35,660 | 6 | 29 | 3,125 | 20 | 76 | 8 |
| Jagna | 4 | 60,188 | 26,115 | 34,073 | 33,569 | 9 | 46 | 27,879 | 11 | 43 | 5,690 | 10 | 48 | 17 |
| Lila | 5 | 14,362 | 3,872 | 10,491 | 19,166 | 40 | 108 | 17,214 | 39 | 105 | 1,952 | 35 | 97 | 10 |
| Loay | 5 | 9,586 | 1,993 | 7,593 | 15,596 | 45 | 117 | 14,531 | 44 | 114 | 1,065 | 44 | 114 | 7 |
| Loboc | 5 | 13,089 | 1,451 | 11,638 | 20,926 | 37 | 103 | 18,578 | 37 | 98 | 2,348 | 30 | 92 | 11 |
| Loon | 3 | 78,701 | 17,727 | 60,975 | 44,366 | 5 | 27 | 39,209 | 4 | 23 | 5,156 | 11 | 50 | 12 |
| Mabini | 4 | 44,071 | 10,235 | 33,836 | 27,507 | 21 | 70 | 24,086 | 21 | 64 | 3,421 | 19 | 72 | 12 |
| Maribojoc | 5 | 30,943 | 3,818 | 27,125 | 22,747 | 30 | 89 | 19,053 | 34 | 92 | 3,694 | 15 | 66 | 16 |
| Panglao | 4 | 41,320 | 3,068 | 38,253 | 27,787 | 20 | 68 | 22,930 | 24 | 73 | 4,857 | 13 | 53 | 17 |
| Pilar | 4 | 49,128 | 9,053 | 40,075 | 28,219 | 18 | 65 | 25,550 | 13 | 52 | 2,669 | 26 | 88 | 9 |
| Pres. Garcia | 5 | 32,989 | 2,925 | 30,064 | 22,498 | 32 | 92 | 20,053 | 30 | 88 | 2,445 | 27 | 89 | 11 |
| Sagbayan | 5 | 30,551 | 9,071 | 21,480 | 26,019 | 23 | 75 | 23,931 | 22 | 66 | 2,088 | 34 | 96 | 8 |
| San Isidro | 5 | 18,055 | 2,466 | 15,589 | 4,052 | 47 | 120 | 7,769 | 47 | 120 | (3,717) | 47 | 120 | (92) |
| San Miguel | 4 | 25,769 | 4,940 | 20,830 | 26,346 | 22 | 72 | 22,723 | 25 | 75 | 3,623 | 17 | 68 | 14 |
| Sevilla | 5 | 24,323 | 4,677 | 19,646 | 19,065 | 41 | 109 | 15,990 | 40 | 107 | 3,075 | 22 | 79 | 16 |
| Sierra-Bullones | 4 | 56,934 | 4,366 | 52,567 | 32,787 | 10 | 47 | 25,359 | 14 | 53 | 7,428 | 7 | 32 | 23 |
| Sikatuna | 5 | 22,587 | 5,961 | 16,626 | 15,529 | 46 | 118 | 14,451 | 45 | 115 | 1,078 | 42 | 112 | 7 |
| Talibon | 2 | 122,192 | 58,615 | 63,577 | 75,329 | 1 | 4 | 55,744 | 1 | 7 | 19,586 | 1 | 4 | 26 |
| Trinidad | 4 | 30,138 | 9,244 | 20,894 | 34,676 | 8 | 43 | 32,473 | 8 | 33 | 2,202 | 33 | 95 | 6 |
| Tubigon | 3 | 74,421 | 12,900 | 61,521 | 51,191 | 3 | 22 | 43,452 | 3 | 16 | 7,739 | 6 | 30 | 15 |
| Ubay | 2 | 109,520 | 20,749 | 88,771 | 60,603 | 2 | 11 | 47,822 | 2 | 12 | 12,781 | 3 | 14 | 21 |
| Valencia | 4 | 82,269 | 10,001 | 72,269 | 28,934 | 17 | 59 | 18,820 | 35 | 95 | 10,114 | 5 | 21 | 35 |
| **Cebu** | | 3,051,500 | 543,174 | 2,508,326 | 1,822,461 | | 1 | 1,475,770 | | 1 | 346,692 | | 1 | 19 |
| Alcantara | 5 | 31,208 | 3,899 | 27,309 | 16,760 | 47 | 114 | 13,636 | 47 | 118 | 3,122 | 36 | 77 | 19 |
| Alcoy | 5 | 55,099 | 9,905 | 45,194 | 22,352 | 40 | 93 | 14,934 | 46 | 111 | 7,419 | 19 | 33 | 33 |
| Alegria | 5 | 35,298 | 2,423 | 32,875 | 24,590 | 35 | 83 | 21,888 | 34 | 80 | 2,702 | 40 | 85 | 11 |
| Aloguinsan | 5 | 17,523 | 3,404 | 14,120 | 24,198 | 36 | 84 | 18,319 | 41 | 102 | 5,879 | 27 | 47 | 24 |
| Argao | 3 | 63,885 | 8,429 | 55,456 | 51,938 | 13 | 20 | 40,287 | 11 | 19 | 11,652 | 9 | 16 | 22 |
| Asturias | 4 | 70,546 | 7,843 | 62,703 | 37,406 | 19 | 33 | 22,853 | 33 | 74 | 14,553 | 6 | 11 | 39 |
| Badian | 4 | 51,875 | 12,051 | 39,825 | 34,239 | 24 | 44 | 27,285 | 23 | 45 | 6,954 | 21 | 37 | 20 |
| Balamban | 2 | 111,748 | 11,496 | 100,252 | 78,305 | 2 | 3 | 57,731 | 3 | 6 | 20,574 | 2 | 3 | 26 |
| Bantayan | 2 | 97,866 | 11,065 | 86,801 | 56,327 | 8 | 15 | 47,618 | 7 | 13 | 8,708 | 15 | 26 | 15 |
| Barili | 3 | 90,816 | 19,876 | 70,940 | 46,355 | 16 | 26 | 39,644 | 13 | 21 | 6,710 | 22 | 38 | 14 |
| Bogo | 2 | 206,508 | 27,397 | 179,111 | 64,099 | 6 | 10 | 53,034 | 6 | 9 | 11,065 | 11 | 19 | 17 |
| Boljo-on | 5 | 35,424 | 3,592 | 31,832 | 22,510 | 39 | 91 | 18,969 | 37 | 93 | 3,541 | 33 | 70 | 16 |
| Borbon | 4 | 22,698 | 1,595 | 21,103 | 28,638 | 30 | 63 | 23,366 | 31 | 70 | 5,272 | 28 | 49 | 18 |
| Carcar | 2 | 116,063 | 30,158 | 85,905 | 69,094 | 3 | 6 | 61,095 | 2 | 3 | 7,998 | 17 | 29 | 11 |
| Carmen | 4 | 70,967 | 11,704 | 59,263 | 36,900 | 21 | 36 | 27,766 | 22 | 44 | 9,134 | 14 | 25 | 25 |
| Catmon | 4 | 51,911 | 5,960 | 45,951 | 29,151 | 28 | 57 | 24,608 | 26 | 56 | 4,544 | 30 | 56 | 16 |
| Compostela | 4 | 55,560 | 13,897 | 41,663 | 37,008 | 20 | 36 | 29,432 | 20 | 37 | 7,576 | 18 | 31 | 20 |
| Consolacion | 2 | 112,315 | 8,798 | 103,520 | 64,423 | 5 | 9 | 54,548 | 4 | 8 | 9,876 | 12 | 23 | 15 |
| Cordova | 4 | 53,086 | 20,495 | 32,591 | 34,194 | 25 | 45 | 26,887 | 24 | 48 | 7,307 | 20 | 34 | 21 |
| Daan Bantayan | 3 | 130,602 | 11,531 | 119,071 | 57,666 | 7 | 14 | 36,634 | 16 | 25 | 21,032 | 1 | 2 | 36 |
| Dalaguete | 3 | 123,713 | 38,354 | 85,360 | 55,620 | 9 | 16 | 39,517 | 14 | 22 | 16,103 | 5 | 9 | 29 |
| Dumanjug | 4 | 61,193 | 13,228 | 47,965 | 35,468 | 23 | 41 | 34,081 | 18 | 31 | 1,387 | 45 | 107 | 4 |
| Ginatilan | 5 | 28,321 | 1,751 | 26,570 | 20,329 | 44 | 106 | 15,387 | 45 | 110 | 4,942 | 29 | 52 | 24 |
| Liloan | 3 | 75,409 | 18,768 | 56,640 | 53,645 | 12 | 19 | 43,926 | 9 | 16 | 9,719 | 13 | 29 | 18 |
| Madridejos | 3 | 23,117 | 1,679 | 21,438 | 26,274 | 33 | 74 | 24,544 | 27 | 57 | 1,730 | 43 | 101 | 7 |
| Malabuyoc | 4 | 25,989 | 3,544 | 22,444 | 21,339 | 43 | 101 | 18,329 | 40 | 101 | 3,011 | 38 | 81 | 14 |
| Medellin | 5 | 117,817 | 13,955 | 103,862 | 54,061 | 11 | 18 | 35,961 | 16 | 27 | 18,100 | 3 | 5 | 33 |
| Minglanilla | 2 | 103,843 | 26,902 | 76,941 | 65,139 | 4 | 8 | 51,116 | 6 | 10 | 14,022 | 7 | 12 | 22 |
| Moalboal | 4 | 42,022 | 5,504 | 36,518 | 32,514 | 26 | 48 | 23,832 | 30 | 69 | 8,682 | 16 | 27 | 27 |
| Naga | 2 | 150,205 | 49,137 | 101,068 | 81,964 | 1 | 2 | 78,366 | 1 | 1 | 3,598 | 32 | 69 | 4 |
| Oslob | 4 | 50,264 | 16,293 | 33,971 | 26,011 | 34 | 78 | 24,094 | 20 | 63 | 1,917 | 42 | 99 | 7 |
| Pilar | 5 | 25,388 | 3,271 | 22,117 | 16,898 | 46 | 113 | 15,730 | 44 | 109 | 1,168 | 46 | 111 | 7 |
| Pinamungahan | 4 | 70,017 | 4,614 | 65,403 | 41,805 | 17 | 29 | 35,702 | 17 | 28 | 6,103 | 26 | 46 | 15 |
| Poro | 5 | 40,450 | 5,365 | 35,085 | 27,667 | 31 | 69 | 21,468 | 35 | 83 | 6,199 | 25 | 45 | 22 |
| Ronda | 5 | 35,620 | 7,589 | 28,031 | 22,259 | 41 | 95 | 18,915 | 38 | 94 | 3,344 | 35 | 74 | 15 |
| Samboan | 5 | 30,688 | 1,902 | 28,786 | 21,353 | 42 | 100 | 17,656 | 42 | 103 | 3,697 | 31 | 65 | 17 |
| San Fernando | 3 | 87,293 | 14,036 | 73,257 | 51,719 | 14 | 21 | 40,221 | 12 | 20 | 11,498 | 10 | 18 | 22 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 64,896 | 6,957 | 57,939 | 36,861 | 22 | 37 | 30,650 | 19 | 36 | 6,211 | 24 | 44 | 17 |
| San Remigio | 4 | 54,627 | 6,119 | 48,508 | 55,501 | 10 | 17 | 41,813 | 10 | 17 | 13,688 | 8 | 13 | 25 |
| Santa Fe | 5 | 9,021 | 1,094 | 7,926 | 23,398 | 37 | 86 | 20,425 | 36 | 85 | 2,973 | 39 | 82 | 13 |
| Santander | 5 | 41,112 | 26,111 | 15,001 | 20,217 | 45 | 107 | 18,489 | 39 | 99 | 1,728 | 44 | 102 | 9 |
| Sibonga | 4 | 97,303 | 9,211 | 88,092 | 39,516 | 18 | 31 | 23,360 | 32 | 71 | 16,158 | 4 | 8 | 41 |
| Sogod | 4 | 57,246 | 19,599 | 37,647 | 28,909 | 29 | 60 | 25,566 | 25 | 61 | 3,362 | 34 | 73 | 12 |
| Tabogon | 4 | 30,326 | 3,204 | 27,122 | 29,987 | 27 | 65 | 29,066 | 21 | 42 | 1,932 | 41 | 90 | 6 |
| Tabuelan | 5 | 23,603 | 1,300 | 22,303 | 26,970 | 32 | 71 | 23,916 | 29 | 67 | 3,053 | 37 | 80 | 11 |
| Tuburan | 3 | 74,221 | 14,970 | 59,244 | 47,271 | 15 | 25 | 47,025 | 8 | 14 | 247 | 47 | 116 | 1 |
| Tudela | 5 | 26,201 | 2,686 | 23,516 | 22,826 | 38 | 88 | 16,394 | 43 | 106 | 6,433 | 23 | 40 | 28 |
| **Negros Oriental** | | 1,463,189 | 400,524 | 1,062,665 | 845,003 | | 3 | 678,664 | | 3 | 166,338 | | 3 | 20 |
| Amlan | 5 | 24,893 | 5,534 | 19,359 | 24,832 | 19 | 82 | 22,004 | 18 | 78 | 2,828 | 19 | 84 | 11 |
| Ayungon | 4 | 85,724 | 16,435 | 69,289 | 41,292 | 8 | 30 | 37,333 | 6 | 24 | 3,959 | 17 | 63 | 10 |
| Bacong | 4 | 43,766 | 20,230 | 23,536 | 31,408 | 13 | 49 | 26,651 | 14 | 49 | 4,757 | 12 | 54 | 15 |
| Basay | 4 | 63,161 | 8,864 | 54,297 | 28,070 | 17 | 66 | 23,848 | 16 | 68 | 4,229 | 14 | 58 | 15 |
| Bindoy | 4 | 61,921 | 31,624 | 30,297 | 36,442 | 10 | 39 | 29,341 | 10 | 38 | 7,101 | 8 | 35 | 19 |
| Dauin | 4 | 24,824 | 8,634 | 16,190 | 26,322 | 18 | 73 | 22,318 | 17 | 76 | 4,004 | 16 | 61 | 15 |
| Guihulngan | 1 | 120,473 | 56,211 | 64,262 | 72,079 | 3 | 5 | 65,589 | 1 | 2 | 6,491 | 10 | 30 | 9 |
| Jimalalud | 4 | 38,929 | 11,692 | 27,237 | 28,765 | 16 | 62 | 27,089 | 12 | 48 | 1,676 | 20 | 103 | 6 |
| La Libertad | 4 | 54,599 | 14,042 | 40,558 | 35,528 | 11 | 40 | 24,002 | 16 | 65 | 11,527 | 4 | 17 | 32 |
| Mabinay | 3 | 111,704 | 9,244 | 102,460 | 58,076 | 6 | 13 | 40,677 | 6 | 10 | 17,398 | 2 | 6 | 30 |
| Manjuyod | 3 | 92,813 | 10,382 | 82,431 | 49,295 | 6 | 24 | 31,969 | 9 | 35 | 17,326 | 3 | 7 | 35 |
| Pamplona | 4 | 46,251 | 11,819 | 34,432 | 36,237 | 12 | 42 | 28,274 | 11 | 41 | 7,964 | 9 | 36 | 20 |
| San Jose | 5 | 31,001 | 12,482 | 18,599 | 21,442 | 20 | 90 | 17,317 | 20 | 104 | 4,125 | 15 | 60 | 19 |
| Sta. Catalina | 2 | 135,510 | 39,256 | 96,254 | 68,134 | 3 | 7 | 58,807 | 3 | 5 | 9,328 | 6 | 24 | 14 |
| Siaton | 4 | 68,668 | 21,763 | 46,916 | 59,110 | 4 | 12 | 48,703 | 4 | 11 | 10,416 | 5 | 20 | 18 |
| Sibulan | 2 | 48,699 | 15,674 | 33,025 | 41,952 | 7 | 28 | 35,614 | 7 | 30 | 6,338 | 11 | 42 | 15 |
| Tayasan | 4 | 40,457 | 10,234 | 30,223 | 37,136 | 9 | 34 | 32,447 | 8 | 34 | 4,689 | 13 | 55 | 13 |
| Valencia | 3 | 278,241 | 60,557 | 217,684 | 90,789 | 1 | 1 | 59,037 | 2 | 4 | 31,751 | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Vallehermoso | 4 | 30,098 | 6,108 | 23,991 | 30,277 | 14 | 53 | 27,062 | 13 | 47 | 3,215 | 18 | 75 | 11 |
| Zamboanguita | 4 | 54,676 | 12,749 | 41,927 | 28,769 | 15 | 61 | 20,584 | 19 | 84 | 8,200 | 7 | 30 | 29 |
| **Siquijor** | | 198,279 | 27,039 | 171,240 | 124,358 | | 4 | 110,837 | | 4 | 13,521 | | 4 | 11 |
| Larena | 6 | 25,591 | 3,261 | 22,331 | 21,247 | 3 | 102 | 21,482 | 2 | 82 | (236) | 6 | 118 | (1) |
| Lazi | 6 | 53,245 | 6,504 | 46,740 | 24,129 | 2 | 85 | 20,162 | 3 | 86 | 3,968 | 3 | 62 | 16 |
| Maria | 6 | 25,951 | 2,390 | 23,561 | 18,625 | 4 | 110 | 18,879 | 4 | 97 | (254) | 5 | 117 | (1) |
| San Juan | 6 | 30,390 | 4,446 | 25,944 | 18,020 | 5 | 112 | 13,863 | 5 | 117 | 4,157 | 2 | 59 | 23 |
| Siquijor | 6 | 51,076 | 8,718 | 42,358 | 28,478 | 1 | 64 | 24,208 | 1 | 60 | 4,270 | 1 | 57 | 15 |
| E. Villanueva | 4 | 12,026 | 1,719 | 10,307 | 13,960 | 6 | 119 | 12,453 | 6 | 119 | 1,507 | 4 | 104 | 11 |

*Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.*

*1 – Provincial Ranking

2 – Regional Ranking

Trans Co

## NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

### AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-010C

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

**DATE OF BIDDING : OCTOBER 25, 2004; 1:30 P.M.**

| SCHEDULE | | ITEM DESCRIPTION | PR NUMBER | APPROVED BUDGET |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | 2 SETS | PROTECTIVE RELAY TEST SYSTEM | 3SL-04-125 | P 13,000,000.00 |
| A2 | 1 SET | TRANSFORMER ON-LINE OIL TREATMENT PLANTS | 3SL-04-121 | P 10,000,000.00 |
| A3 | 1 SET | IN-OIL TRANSFORMER INSPECTION SYSTEM | 3SL-04-122 | P 5,000,000.00 |
| A4 | 1 LOT | SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION OF 115KV SUBSTATION CONTROL PANEL | 3LAG 04-205 | P 4,206,690.00 |
| A5 | 15 REFL | OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE | D1-04-282 | P 3,000,000.00 |
| A6 | 1 PC | 69 KV POWER CIRCUIT BREAKER | D1-04-165 | P 3,000,000.00 |

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1-A6 will be held on October 11, 2004; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting **September 30, 2004**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184"

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) G. R. LISTANO
Chairman-BAC
SLO&M

(PDI – September 29, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
**BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE**
Bids and Awards Committee for
Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

September 22, 2004

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name of Project | : | CUSTOMIZATION/CONFIGURATION, INTEGRATION, MIGRATION AND INSTALLATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES OF CALL MONITORING SOFTWARE AND LEASE OF SERVER FOR THE BIR CONTACT CENTER AND BIR HELP DESK |
| Location of the Project | : | Bureau of Internal Revenue |
| Contract Duration | : | December 1, 2004 up to February 28, 2005 |
| Approved Budget | : | P6,750,000.00 |
| Source of Funding | : | e-Government Fund |

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting **September 22, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of (P1,400.00).

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 7, 2004, Thursday at 2:00 p.m.**, at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **October 21, 2004, Thursday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room**, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101, 981-7079, 981-7080 and 928-3235 (telefax) or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **Atty. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner-HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - September 22 & 29, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

## BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

1. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) - C**

   GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) II - Item No. OMBA-GIO2-22-1998; SG-27

   Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

2. **MONITORING AND EDP DIVISION (MED)**

   **COMPUTER OPERATOR III - Item No. OMBA-COMPO3-2-1998; SG-12**

   Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; Experience: Two (2) years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/Data Encoder (MC 11, s. 96-Cat. I/First Level Eligibility

3. **GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION, CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

   a) STOREKEEPER II ------- Item No. OMBA-STK2-1-1998; SG-6
   b) CLERK III ------------------ Item No. OMBA-CK3-41-1998; SG-6
   c) BUYER I -------------------- Item No. OMBA-BY1-1-1998; SG-4

   Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/ First Level Eligibility

   d) CARPENTER II ----------- Item No. OMBA-CP2-2-1998; SG-5

   Education: Elementary School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Carpenter (MC 11, s. 96-Cat. I)

4. **HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

   **HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER II - HRMO2-1-1998; SG-15**

   Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training: Four hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit their applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address the following: 1) AN APPLICATION LETTER STATING THE POSITION APPLIED FOR; 2) DULY ACCOMPLISHED PERSONAL DATA SHEET (CSC FORM 212); 3) 1" x 1" PICTURE (COLORED); 4) BAR RATING/CSC CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY; 5) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS; 6) CERTIFICATE OF SEMINARS/TRAININGS ATTENDED (CSC ACCREDITED) and 7) CERTIFICATE FROM PREVIOUS/PRESENT EMPLOYMENT STATING THE POSITION, ACTUAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IF APPLICABLE).

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PIRS

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
### 11-12 November 2004, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City

### "Quality Partnerships Towards a Decent Workplace: Blending Homegrown with Global Practices and Strategies"

### *PROGRAMME*

**DAY 1 - November 11, 2004 (Thursday)**

8:00am Registration/Opening Ceremonies

9:45 Keynote Address:
Promoting Fair Globalization and Decent
Work: The Score Card from the Viewpoint of the ILO

10:30 PLENARY SESSION 1:
Homegrown IR & HR strategies and practices: Sharing the success of an Employees Council

11:25 PANEL DISCUSSION 1:
Examining the State of Labor-Management Relations in the Philippines

1:25pm PLENARY SESSION 2:
Sharing the success of a Filipino enterprise: balance between contractual and regular decent jobs

2:05 PLENARY SESSION 3:
Sharing the success of a Filipino enterprise: Homegrown IR/HR best practices & strategies for global competitiveness

3:00 PANEL DISCUSSION 2A:
Social Dialogue on Wage Fixing and Philippine Industrial Relations

PANEL DISCUSSION 3A:
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): expectations and applications

**DAY 2 - November 12, 2004 (Friday)**

8:00am Registration/Social Interaction/
Video Presentation

8:30 PLENARY SESSIONS 4/5/6
Learning from changes in IR/HR practices & strategies from Japan, China & Korea

10:45 PANEL DISCUSSION 3A:
Blending homegrown with best global IR/HR prctices and strategies in the Philippines

PANEL DISCUSSION 3B:
Strategic role of IR/HR in transforming business enterprises into globally competitive workplace

1:00pm Keynote Address:
Philippine Labor Updates & Policy Directions
Sec. P. A. Sto. Tomas, DOLE

1:45 PANEL DISCUSSION 4A:
Blending new trends in IR/HR through alternative disputes settlement

PANEL DISCUSSION 4B:
Innovations in collective bargaining negotiation

2:45 PLENARY SESSION 7:
From adversarial to quality partnerships at the work place: blending with best practices in labor-management relations

3:35 PLENARY SESSION 8:
Learning from global best practices on quality partnerships at the workplace

PLENARY SESSION 9:
Learning from best practices & strategies on productivity:

4:40 Integration/Closing ceremonies/
Acknowledgement

**PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY, INC.,**
in partnership with the
**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION - Manila**

***For registration/queries, please contact:***
***Tel. Nos.: 890-4889 (Ria/Brigida); 944-0014 (Irma); 948-3559 (Dick)***
***Fax Nos.: 751-4604, 944-0031; E-mail address: pirs_natcon@yahoo.com***

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Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Labor and Employment**
Intramuros, Manila

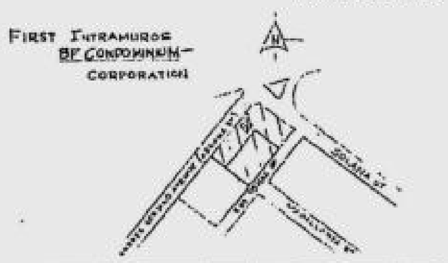
## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following bureaus under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall transfer their offices to the 6th floor, First Intramuros BF Condominium Corporation, Solana St. corner Andres Soriano Avenue (Aduana St.), Intramuros, Manila by end of September, 2004 from their present respective addresses

| BUREAU | PRESENT ADDRESS | TELEPHONE NUMBERS | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) | Ground Floor Velco Center, cor 11th & Delgado Sts., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila | 527-2531<br>527-1574<br>527-2535 | 527-2459<br>527-1585<br>527-2537 |
| 2 Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) | 2nd Floor, Velco Center, cor 13th & Delgado Sts., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila | 527-2453<br>527-2539<br>527-2421<br>527-2541 | 528-0087<br>528-0081<br>528-0108 |
| 3 Bureau of Women and Young Workers (BWYW) | 2nd Floor, Executive Bldg., San Jose St., Intramuros, Manila | 527-2488<br>527-2556<br>527-2558 | 528-0119<br>528-0092<br>528-0089 |

These offices can be reached at the telephone numbers indicated above.

Al Allones
MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES
Assistant Secretary



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## OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

### FÉ TORRENTE YOINGCO
"MOM"

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on September 30, 2003.*

Her husband **ANGEL Q. YOINGCO**;
children, grandchildren, brother and other relatives
shall offer Holy Masses at the following churches
on September 30, 2004:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ina ng Laging Saklolo**, *Tagaytay City* | 6:30 AM |
| **De La Salle**, *Dasmariñas,Cavite* | 12:15 PM |
| **Daughters of Charity**, *Tagaytay City* | 6:30 PM |
| **St. John Don Bosco Parish**, *Mandaluyong City* | 6:30 AM;<br>6:00 PM |
| **Sto. Domingo Church**, *Quezon City* | 8:00 AM;<br>6:00 PM |
| **National Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes**, *Q.C.* | 6:00 PM |
| **Cathedral of the Good Shepherd**, *Fairview, Q.C.* | 6:00 AM |
| **San Lorenzo Parish Church**, *Pleasant Hill, SJDM, Bulacan* | 6:00 AM |
| **Sta. Rafaela Maria (House of Spirituality)** *Gloria III, T.Sora* | 6:00 AM |

### RODOLFO A. RODRIGUEZ
**(Retired Caltex Employee)**

*Peacefully joined our Creator*
*on September 23, 2004 at the age of 80.*

He is survived by his brothers and sisters **Florencio, Felicidad, Melanie, Dorothea, Bethilda, Felixberto, Maria Luz Consuelo** and **Maria Paz**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law **Elsie, Thomas Westoby, Rafael Castillo, Lourdes delos Santos, Ricardo G. Millare,** and **Mike Morris**; nephews and nieces and great grandchildren, request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Doña Juana Rodriguez St. (formerly Broadway), Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated on September 30, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will immediately follow at Loyola Memorial Park Marikina.

### *Lorna Q. Valenzuela*
*Died in the grace of our Lord on September 28, 2004*
*at the age of 45.*

Her bereaved parents, **Luis** and **Alda Valenzuela**, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at her resident at Matuyatuya, Torrijos, Marinduque. Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004 at the Matuyatuya Cemetery.

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## 2004 China Chongqing Trade Show in Manila

THE 2004 China Chongqing Trade Expo Philippines opens on Sept. 29 until Oct. 1, at the World Trade Center organized by the Chongqing Heaven Best International Business Exhibitions and Trade Co, Ltd and by Premier Events Plus Group Inc. The expo's theme "Business Opportunities in Foreign Trade" with a trade objective to foster closer economic ties between China and the Philippines through a showcase of the various business opportunities available in the Province of Chongqing. Being the largest vehicle and motorcycle base in China, the China Chongqing Trade Expo 2004 will feature the motorcycle, electric bikes, automotive, engine and spare parts industry. However, other industries also featured are food, textile, fabrics, electronics, generators, pumps, agricultural machinery, car accessories, women's accessories and many others. Interested parties can call Premier Events Plus group, Inc. at 9297993 or 63, 4364209, 4269603, 9208136 or email at info@PEPGroup.com.

## China Chongqing Vice Mayor conducts business forum

HUANG Qifang, Executive Vice Mayor of Chongqing will hold a business forum at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), 3rd Floor, SGV Case Room, Paseo de Roxas Makati on Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The forum's title "Macro-Control of China's Economy and Go-West Campaign" is a part of China's objective to foster closer economic ties between China and the Philippines through a showcase of various business opportunities available in Chongqing. With China ranked as one of the Philippines' major trading partners, the forum shall reflect the continuing vitality and dynamism of both countries' bilateral trade relations. The forum is open to public and admission is free. Registrants may call Premier Events Plus Group, Inc. at 9297993 or 63, 4364209,4269603 or 9208136 or email at info@PEPGroup.com. The public is also invited to visit the 2004 China Chongqing Trade Show on Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines where various products of Chongqing such as motorcycles, beer and food will be showcased.

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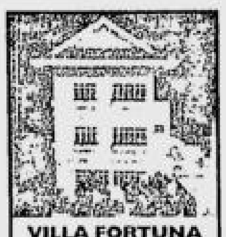

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Notice is Hereby Given
That the Estate of the late Eulogio A. Maranan who died at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on April 13, 2003 Had been Settled by His Heirs in a died of ExtraJudicial Partition with Sale.Subscribed and Acknowledged Before Atty. Magno V. Toribio, Notary Public For And In the City Of Trece Martinez per Doc.# 2; Page# 07; Book #XLI, Series of 2004.PDI-Sept.22.29 Oct. 6, 2004

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is Hereby Given
That the Estate of the Late Rosario and Jesse Alibanggo Was Extrajudicially Settled Among thier Heirs as Per Doc 116 Page 24 Book VI Series 2004 Notary Public Atty. Wendell E. Coronel Of Pque on 20, Sept 2004.
(PDI- Sept. 22,29.2004)
(October. 6, 2004)

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Sgd: Dr. Abella C. Macarandad
Div. Schools Superintendent

---

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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- Good public relation and managerial skills.
- Creative and receptive to new ideas.
- Able to work under stress.
- Able to design and implement market-preferred installment plans for different income groups.
- You should be in your 30s~40s.
- Familiar with import und custom procedures.

**The company offers good remuneration package proportional to performance.**

Please submit the followings via email to The Recruiter, **resume@elbon.com.sg** with the following:

i. Resume stating your experiences, strength and achievements. Attach a recent photograph (non-returnable).
ii. Assuming you were running a small store selling new-brand home appliances, write an essay on how you will, step by step stating your basis and strategies, drive this new brand to become a well-known brand in the Philippines within 2~3 years. Focus on effective strategies with facts and datas.

**Note : If you are only looking for rice bowl, do not apply. This posts is for those who have passions in the field of marketing, sensitive to market conditions, good understanding of customer behavior, strong urge to see and enjoy seeing his/her plans work and, dare to make decisions.**

---

### PERSONAL

**PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER**
**(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)**

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands (3x). Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems so that I can attain my goal, You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer. Thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

---

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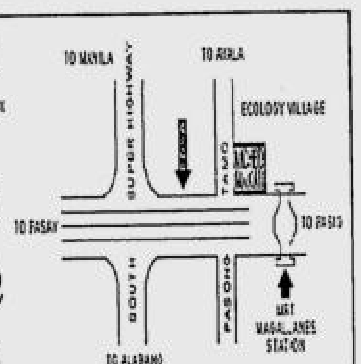

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

# OBITUARIES

**RATE**
P245 per column centimeter
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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

*The Chairman, Directors, Officers, Medical Staff and Employees of*

ASIAN HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

*Extend their heartfelt condolences to the family of their*
*Vice President and Medical Director*

## RODRIGO B. FLORO, M.D.

*Who peacefully joined his Creator on September 26, 2004 at the age of 64.*

*We shall always be grateful for and fondly remember his distinguished service and invaluable contributions to the Asian Hospital and Medical Center.*
*Please join us and his wife, Lourdes Dimaano, M.D., and children, Cristina D. Floro, D.M.D., Clarissa F. Rhode, M.D., Atty. Rodrigo D. Floro, Jr., LCpl (USMC) Robert J. Floro and the rest of his family in praying for his eternal peace and happiness.*

His remains lie in state at Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Funeral Mass and final rites will be held on October 1, 2004, Friday; 9:30 AM at the Main Church.

In lieu of flowers, please give donations to Tuloy Foundation, Inc.

---

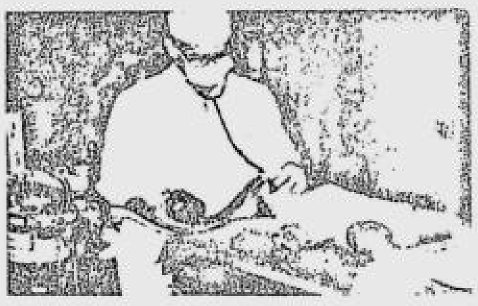
One Great Life... an ember smolders !

## DR. QUINTIN J. GOMEZ M.D.

Father of Anesthesiology in the Philippines

**The Student**

UP Vanguard-
**Corps Commander-Batch '39**
**President**, University Student Council
University of the Philippines '43-44
**Editor**, Philippine Collegian - UP '43-44
**Superior Exemplar, Phi Kappa Mu Fraternity**
College of Medicine - UP '43-44



**The Anesthesiologist and Father**

Philippines Society of Anesthesiologists and Philippines Board of Anesthesiology - **FOUNDER**

Anesthesiology Center Western Pacific, University of the Philippines - **FOUNDER**

**PRESIDENT** *of the* World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiology, *the first Asian ever.*

### First Death Anniversary – September 30, 2004

***Masses will be held for his intentions in the following churches:***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cardinal Santos Hospital Chapel, San Juan | 5:15 pm |
| 2. | Makati Medical Center Chapel | 12:00 nn |
| 3. | Our Lady of De La Strada Parish – Loyola Hghts QC | 6:00 pm |
| 4. | Sanctuario de Santo Cristo, San Juan | 6:00 pm |
| 5. | St John the Baptist Parish Pinaglabanan, San Juan | 6:00 pm |
| 6. | Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills | 6:00 pm |
| 7. | Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati | 6:00 pm |
| 8. | San Jose Seminary Chapel, Loyola Hghts QC | 6:00 pm |
| 9. | RADIO VERITAS Mass on Air (846 AM station) | 12:00 nn |
| 10. | Mt Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila QC | 6:00 pm |
| 11. | St Mark Parish Cathedral – Infanta, Quezon | 6:00 pm |
| 12. | St Jerome Parish, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija | 6:00 pm |
| 13. | Social Action Gracia Plena Center, Talavera, Nueva Ecija | 8:00 am |
| 14. | Our Lady Of Lourdes Church, Baguio City | 6:30 am |
| 15. | Don Bosco Parish, Baguio City | 6:30 am |
| 16. | St. Vincent's Parish, Baguio City | 6:00 am |
| 17. | Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City | 6:00 am |
| 18. | Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral, Imus, Cavite | 6:00 am |
| 19. | Parish of San Roque, Lemery, Batangas | 6:00 am |
| 20. | National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Makati | All Masses |

---

## AUGUSTO P. TRINIDAD

*Peacefully joined his Creator and his wife Juanita on September 27, 2004 at the age of 82.*

Children & in-laws : Araceli T. Trinidad-Mata, **Roberto M. Mata, Erwin & Jodi, Cynthia** and **Conrad** of Long Island, N.Y.

Manuel T. Trinidad & **Leticia K. Trinidad, Christy** and **Carla** of Quezon City

Sonia T. Trinidad-Ramirez, & **Raffy Ramirez Carlo Roy** and **Angela Niña** of Quezon City

Gregorio T. Trinidad & **Violet M. Trinidad, Nico** and **Charisse** of Long Island, N.Y.

Rosario (Charo) T. Trinidad-Ireton & Warner Bros., (Japan) Chairman **William Ireton, Matthew, Roberta, William, Thomas,** and **Edward** of Tokyo Japan

Nestorio T. Trinidad of West Hollywood, CA

relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Church Chapel A at Greenmedows in Quezon City until Wednesday, September 29, 2004.

Remains will be moved on September 30, 2004 in Iba, Zambales at the residence of former Congresswoman Pacita T. Gonzalez & DOJ Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez. Interment on Saturday, October 2nd in Iba , Zambales, Catholic Cemetery.

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**"For God so loved the World, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."**

—John 3:16

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**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

# Training gives companies competitive edge

**By Arlene D. Ticzon and Gina M. Hechanova**
*Contributors*

DIFFERENT people have different perspectives when it comes to training. There are some who view it as a waste of time as it means being away from work. Still some view it as a welcome break from work. Others see the long-term benefits of training and look at it as an opportunity to develop oneself.

People at Work Pulse conducted a survey to find out how employees perceive training. How important is training to the employee? How important do these employees think training is to their organization? Questions on the number of training programs and the kinds of training programs attended, training methodologies experienced, who decides on an employee's participation in training and the reasons for attending training programs were also included in the survey.

## Popular training topics

Thirty readers responded, most of them female (71 percent) and married (56 percent). The mean age of the respondents is 30 years old. They come from diverse industries and are specialists in their fields.

Eighty-three percent of the respondents have attended an average of six training programs in the past two years. The remaining seventeen percent though did not have any training. Asked why this was so, the top two reasons that surfaced were because no training was provided in the organization and because their bosses did not send them to any training program. This suggests that there are still some companies and bosses who may not realize the value of employee development.

Professional skills training (communication, business ethics) and job-specific or technical skills training programs were cited by majority of respondents (53 percent). Supervisory, managerial and leadership development are also popular kinds of training programs attended by the respondents (43 percent). Forty percent of the respondents have also attended new employee orientation programs while 37 percent have gone through customer service training. Around a third of participants also reported attending programs related to personal development (33 percent) and computer literacy or applications (27 percent).

## Company programs

When asked who decides their participating in training programs, most respondents said programs were company mandated (60 percent). Some also say that they attend because they have been recommended by their supervisors to attend the programs (40 percent). Thirty percent say that their decision to participate in training is a joint decision between them and their supervisors. Twenty-three percent participate in training programs because it is their personal choice.

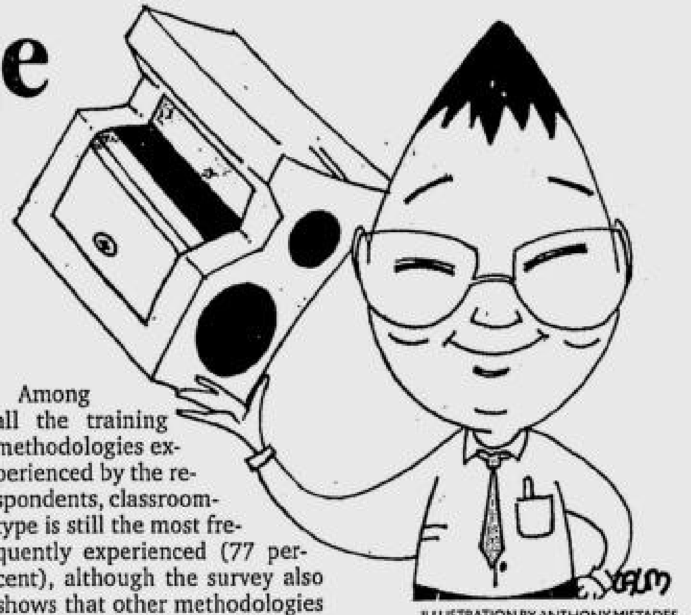

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Among all the training methodologies experienced by the respondents, classroom-type is still the most frequently experienced (77 percent), although the survey also shows that other methodologies such as on-the-job training or coaching (43 percent), computer-based training or e-learning (37 percent) and teleconferencing (7 percent) are being used as well. The results suggest a greater variety of development methods available to employees.

## Importance of training

Respondents were asked how important training is to them. On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 as "very important," their responses gave a mean score of 4.53. When asked to rank five choices for attending training programs, the top reasons (in order of importance) were career development and promotion, company-mandated, meeting new friends and networking. These imply that respondents view training as a tool to prepare themselves for a targeted position or to equip themselves in doing better in their current positions. Interestingly, when asked how important do they think training is to their organizations, the mean score was 4.20. This suggests that although employees think training is important, they may not believe that their organization values training is as much as they do.

In today's work environment where employment for life is becoming extinct, the new paradigm appears to be that one's security comes from being employable. Training is a vital tool towards this end and workers would benefit from taking whatever opportunity is presented to them to hone their abilities. On the other hand, employers need to realize that people affect their company's competitiveness and that training is not a luxury but a necessary investment in maximizing their potential.

*(Arlene D. Ticzon is a Master of Arts candidate in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program of the Ateneo de Manila. Gina Hechanova is a faculty member of the Department of Psychology in Ateneo and director for Research and Organization Development of Ateneo CORD. For feedback on this article please e-mail Ateneo CORD at* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph)

## *Internet at work*

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of the poll is published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from last month's survey are **Jose Cydel Daen** and **Cherrie Layante** (kindly contact Ateneo CORD to claim your prizes). Please be assured that your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

1) Do you have Internet access in your workplace?
_____ a. Yes _____ b. No (please go directly to the box below)
2) How many hours a day do you use the Internet? _____
3) What percentage of this is on non-work related activity?_____
4) Which of the following sites do you access while at work? (check all that applies)
_____ a. Shopping
_____ b. News
_____ c. Entertainment
_____ d. Personal e-mail accounts
_____ e. Sports
_____ f. Sites for downloading free software or music
_____ g. Chat rooms, message boards, Friendster, etc.
_____ h. Adult material (sex-related sites)
_____ i. Gambling
_____ j. Others
5) Which of the following do you do during office hours? (check all that applies)
_____ a. Play Internet computer games
_____ b. Listen to radio or music via Internet
_____ c. Personal instant messaging
_____ d. Downloading movies/music/software
_____ e. Others
6) Does your company have a policy on computer use?
_____ a. Yes _____ b. No
7) Do you think employers have the right to monitor your use of the computer?
_____ a. Yes _____ b. No
Name:_____
Gender:_____ Age:_____ Civil Status:_____
Nature of Job: _____
Company Name: _____
Industry: _____
Tel/Mobile/E-mail: _____

Mail or fax this form or email and text your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development
2/F Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Fax No. (632) 426-6065 E-mail: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text answers to (0920)831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail

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# 'I can't express myself in English!'

**By Tita Datu Puangco**

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM A GRADUATE of computer science. You see, I graduated last 2002 but I have not completed a year of working experience. After sending resumés to different companies, I was hired last 2003 but only on a contractual basis. I completed my contract and now I am again unemployed. I am doing my best to find a job, but I failed. I live in the province but whenever I get a call to take an exam or an interview I always show up.

I always pass the exam but when the company representative interviews me, I lose the job. This happened to me not only once but four times. I passed the exams of four different companies, but failed to pass the interviews.

Perhaps, the reason I fail the interview is because of my bad English. I can't express myself in English that much. This is the reason why I hesitate to apply with call center companies, though I want to work in a call center very much.

On the other hand, I have tried everything to improve my English. I spent a lot of time studying English grammar and communications. But I am surprised with myself because I don't seem to improve.

I am a bookworm. I love reading: fiction, dictionary, educational books, newspaper and magazines, almost everything in English. I even love watching foreign movies and shows. This is why I keep asking myself why I have this weakness.

I can't take a special course because I don't have a stable income to finance my schooling. Is it possible to improve everything through self-study? Is there any way that I could get a job? I hope you can assist me with my dilemma. Thanks for taking time to read my letter. I am looking forward to your kind reply.

Desperately Jobless

I have to admit I found difficulty editing your letter. If the way you write is the way you speak, then you have to embark on a more effective way to learn correct English. Your problem is grammar and right word usage. But I can sense that you have the vocabulary and the determination to work on your weakness.

The good news is you are not alone. There are many college graduates, who experience the same difficulties with the language. In fact, our company will be launching in January an Ancilla English Language Center precisely to address this need. The center's curriculum and materials are being co-developed with Finish Line, an educational services center based in New York. The course offering aims at diagnosing language shortcomings and providing customized language lessons for participants. When we open, I would like to offer you a scholarship to our 40-hour program.

But January is a long time to wait for someone who is desperately jobless. Meantime, what can you do? One is to recall and reflect on the interviews you have been through. What do you think are your strengths and weaknesses? Try to recall the questions asked and write out the ideal answers. Then, ask a friend with a good command of English to check your answers for correct grammar and give you feedback on the quality of the content. Then, you can move on to the next step, rehearse and simulate the interview. Do this two times, even three times. Language is a skill. Just like any other skill, practice makes perfect.

Then, take the next step. Ask for a friend or relative to converse with you in English, 20 minutes a day. Together you can decide on topics to discuss. At the end of the conversation period, ask for feedback on your improvement areas. Put the feedback in a journal and review them from time to time. Recently, my daughter and I agreed that she would engage me in Italian conversation 20 minutes, three times a week. You see, just like you I struggle with my Italian.

You might also want to talk to your supervisor in your last contractual job as to why you were not rehired. You may get some improvement tips from his or her comments. Obviously, you have the drive to pursue finding a job. If no company is willing to take you, you might want to try convincing a relative who owns a business to give you a job that will force you to speak the language at work. Take care of yourself. God bless.

*(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

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# *A toast to the people who let working moms escape*

WORKING MOM
*Gina Abuyuan-Llanes*

BAGASBAS, DAET—"Say hello to the full moon for us city slaves. Best night to be in Bagasbas *talaga. Inggit kami* (smiley face)."

Talk about perfect timing. I've been sitting here in this cyber café for the past half hour, trying to figure out what I would share with you readers today, when Working Mom Managing Editor Francine Medina sent me this text. Yes, I'm back in Bagasbas, my newest getaway from the stress-filled ether of Manila, and if I were in the office at this time (11:06 p.m.), yes, I'd be envious as well. But I'm so very lucky to have a team—we're more like a *barkada*, actually—who understand completely (and take over accordingly) when one of us has to hie away and decompress.

Much has been written about how working moms need our space, how a little timeout will allow us to nurture ourselves so we can be in turn refueled to nurture our families, workmates (and work), and friends even better. But there is another side to a working mom escape: the people who let her. They can sense it in our movements, the change of our voices. They know when the lights in our eyes are dimming, like a switch inside us is slowly but constantly turning toward 'low.' They catch us staring out the window in mid-work, then jumping up and pursuing another task before we finished our last.

It's all about being able to see and heed the signs—for them, and for us. Working moms tend to keep up a façade of strength and indefatigability, sometimes to their own detriment. We live with this notion that workaholicism is a virtue, that being a martyr mom is admirable (if not being next to godliness). The harder and longer we put up this act, however, the signals we send out get more jumbled and grow further away from the truth: I am tired. I am stressed. I need to rest. People around us think we're superwomen and treat us so-"kaya nya 'yan, tigas 'yan." In the end, we don't get what we need and want—a break—and they eventually get shortchanged because we aren't giving them 100 percent of whatever it is we should be giving them. "You need a break," they will say sincerely, if they're sensitive enough to see these signs. And if you yourself are likewise well tuned-in to your body, your psyche, and your emotions, you'll take that break. Even if you can't really afford one—because if you won't take it, these wonderful people will slide along with you.

So, here I am, waiting while my painter friend finishes a piece so we can grab a beer and troop to the beach to watch the moon against a blue velvet midnight sky. My twins are at home with their father (last I called, they were dancing to Philadelphia Chickens). My daughter just burned my cellphone line talking about her weekend trip to Bolinao with her *lola* and *lolo* (my, how 7-year-olds can talk up a storm!). The fridge at home is stocked, the bills are paid, and I'm ahead of this column's deadline. Francine and the rest of the WM family urge me, "Why the hell not?! *Hehehe,*" when I text them I'm going to have a beer.

You just have to thank God everyday for people as sweet as these guys.

*(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine. For more on how to live your working mom life without guilt, heeding your innerworks, and being the best mom you can be while being the best worker you can be, get your September issue of Working Mom magazine with Marjorie Barretto on the cover. Feedback is welcome at* gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.com. *Also, please send in your nominees for the first Working Mom of the Year Awards. Please call Marla or Lou at* 415-2272 loc. 4644 *for details and entry forms.)*

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# What it takes to succeed as a journalist

From page B16

"You go into journalism because you believe the world can be better. And you demand it." According to the Princeton honor graduate, journalists can prepare for the task by learning international relations, politics and economics because these areas will help in putting context well for every story. A good grasp of the technical and editorial side of the business would also be helpful.

According to Ressa, one must know every aspect of the job to effectively use the medium to get the message across. "Seventy-five percent of what you are going to remember is not what I write for you—it's going to be what you see and what you hear so it's like putting a puzzle together." By having a solid technical and editorial background, Ressa believes that you can successfully deliver a story.

Every journalist should have the desire to find the key to unlock the story. Ressa suggests that part of the key is an open mind. "It's only if you're open to the story and to the people you're with that you get as much as you put in. I think that's the challenge."

Another part is research and getting facts straight. But according to Ressa, some facts can never be intellectually distilled with emotions or motivation. "I think in every story that is always what you are putting together, the intellectual idea of what it's about and yet at the same time you want to make it interesting. You have to hook it up with why do people do it, why are they interested in it, what motivates people who do it, and what is it they get passionate about." She believes that if you can achieve in putting all these together, then you have the complete key to a good story.

## Objective thinking

"The coolest part is we're paid to go talk to people," says Ressa of her job. She's been paid, quite substantially, to talk to people from different walks of life, all over the world, for almost 21 years now and she's still excited about it every single time. Talkative by nature, she reminds journalists to temper that excitement a bit to make way for analysis and objective thinking. "You always want to find out if you can get to the core of the person you're talking to so you can get the story."

Journalism also anchors Ressa to the child in her. Her job affords her the chance to live through the lives of people she writes about. "You live vicariously through them."

A self-confessed control freak, Ressa loves how her job challenges her to be the best she can be. "It pushes you in every aspect, intellectually, physically, emotionally, spiritually." It is a responsibility that she takes seriously and passionately. She doesn't see herself doing the exact same thing 20 years from now. In fact, she would love to start a life outside television but for now, she is still driven with the duty to open the eyes of the world and is still constantly at awe and reveling in the wonder of other people's lives.

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CNN BUREAU CHIEF

# What it takes to succeed as a journalist

**By Candy G. Villanueva**
*Contributor*

SHE was born in the Philippines, raised in New York and has been all over the globe to cover life-changing events and talk to the most influential and powerful people in the world. Now, Maria Ressa has come full circle. As bureau chief for Cable News Network International, Inc. (CNN), Ressa has set up camp in Makati's most controversial hotel, the Oakwood, to cover events for Southeast Asia. Settled back in her home country, Ressa is in an introspective moment of her life as she looks back on what she has achieved and shares some insights along the way.

## Background

CAREER TALES

To be an effective and successful journalist, the natural course would be to start with a solid educational background on broadcast journalism or mass communications. Maria Ressa took the different route and still made it as one of the country's, and even the world's, most respected broadcast journalists. In fact, she started in a field alien to the broadcasting arena. Her choice, molecular biology at Princeton. However, it didn't take her long to discover that pre-med wasn't her calling. She soon shifted to English and graduated with full honors.

After graduation came the desire for searching. "In the States, I never felt completely American," confesses Ressa. "As soon as I finished college I didn't want to work in corporate America so I applied for a Fulbright scholarship." The scholarship allowed her to take up graduate studies in the University of the Philippines while she rediscovered her roots.

RESSA CANDY G. VILLANUEVA

Before long, Ressa was introduced to television and later worked with Cheche Lazaro to form "The Probe Team." As producer and director of the show, CNN took notice of Ressa and offered her the position of bureau chief for Manila.

## Broadcasting ladder

The climb up the broadcasting ladder was quick for Ressa. Before long, she took over as bureau chief of Jakarta then eventually, Southeast Asia. As bureau chief, Ressa runs and heads the news-covering body. "I'm in charge of editorial, basically the position the network takes on any story, I determine which news item gets the coverage, how we tackle the story, who are the people we interview and how many people or resources do we put on per story."

Covering events that define history, Ressa is on top of everything and on the scene way before everyone else. When the Philippine Ambassador's house in Jakarta was bombed for example, Ressa was there not only to cover but also to help out. "When we got there he (ambassador) was still in the car after the bomb exploded because it was a block away from the office," she remembers. Rising above her journalistic instinct, she put aside her recorder and notebook and helped the victim away from the car into the ambulance.

Ressa's curriculum vitae is a long and comprehensive list of award-winning stories and exclusive interviews. To name a few, she has interviewed past and present heads of the States including the country's former presidents, former US President Bill Clinton, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Recipient of several prestigious awards, Ressa was known to have done first exclusive interviews with incoming leaders like the Philippines' Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Indonesia's BJ Habibie and Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi. She was also the only reporter from a western organization to get an exclusive interview with Indonesia's former President Suharto, one year after he was forced to step down from power.

## Reinventing reporting

Ressa takes the importance of responsible journalism in building a nation seriously. This is because according to her, the country's development is greatly hampered by the negativism fostered by most journalists. "I think that perception becomes reality. We have to tell what the news is but we need to also be open. To see how we are impacting the societies we live in and I think that still is the point that we are missing in the Philippines."

Ressa adds that our type of reporting feasts on circus acts to push ratings. She urges journalists to refrain from "he said, she said reporting" and focus on the facts instead of the drama. "We report on different parties fighting each other yet we don't know whether they're credible figures. We don't say whether their debate is even relevant to anything and yet we keep reporting 'he said, she said.' What's the point?"

Journalists should be clear on the fine line that separates news from gossip. Ressa advises to look at history, the context of the story, the background of the people involved and the hidden agendas. "It's looking at it in a broader context and in that sense you can see with greater clarity. I think that is what we should be demanding," she says.

## Good stories

Ressa reminds aspirants not to go into broadcast journalism because they want to be on TV.

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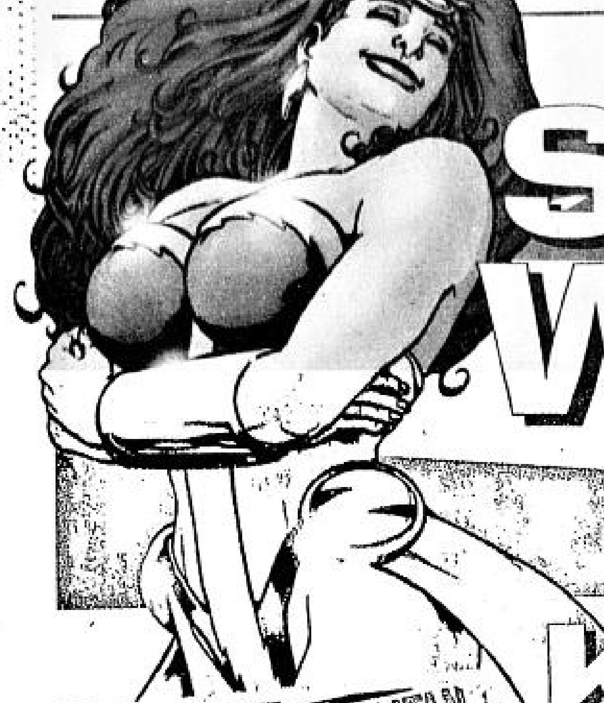

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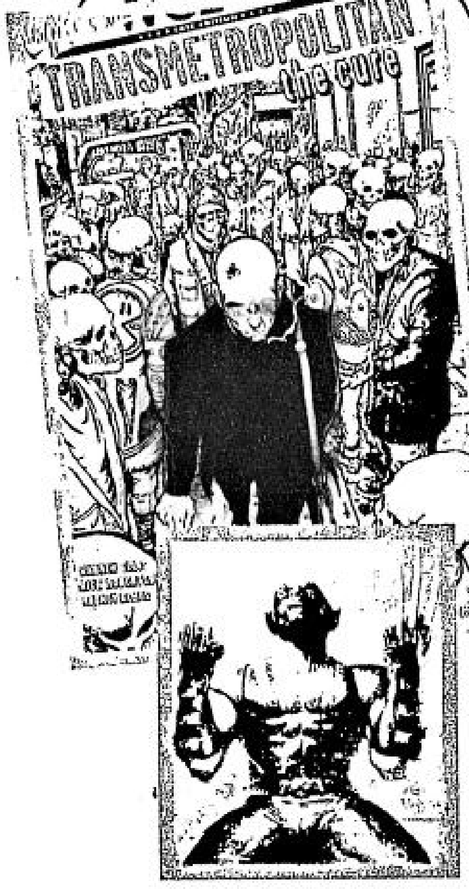
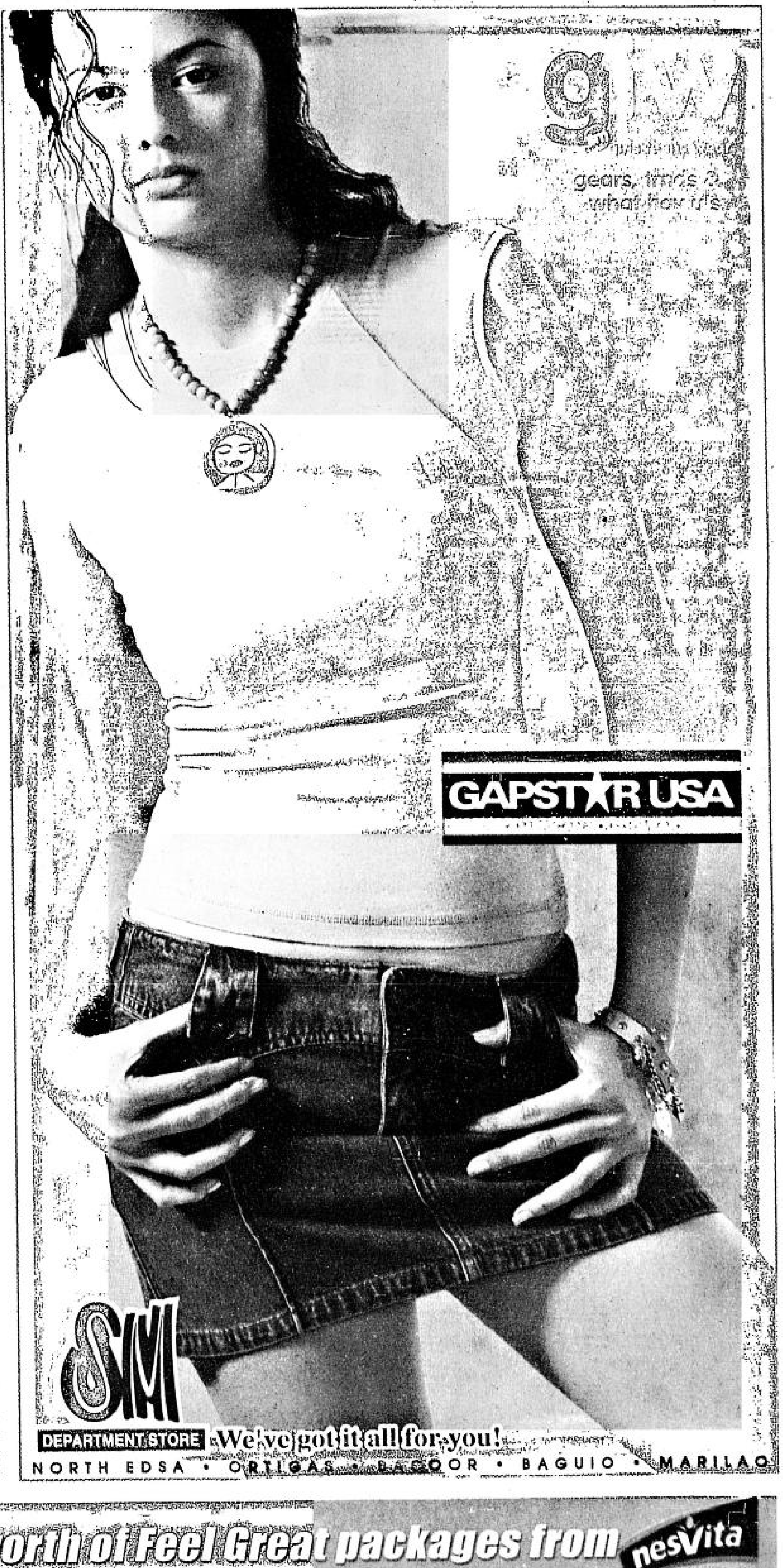


That's the noise made by the grand entrance of 2bU!'s special issue on comic books and their creative authors and illustrators. This is one issue in the brightest living color. Simply irresistible reading!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# Pinoys in the panels

Did you know that some of the world's most popular comic books and graphic novels were drawn or created by Filipinos?

**By Budjette G. Tan**
*Contributor*

THERE were no comic book stores in Manila during the early '80s, which made comic book collecting very difficult.

As a kid, I remember finding tattered copies of "House of Mystery" and "House of Secrets" in my toy chest, probably left there by one of my uncles. One secret I didn't know was that some of those comic books were drawn by Filipinos.

Back then, there was no Google to check who's who in the comic book world. So, it was a good thing my dad gave me a copy of "History of Komiks in the Philippines and Other Countries," a thick, hardbound book that contained a directory and biographies of Filipino comic book artists. Here are some interesting trivia I found.

## '70s-'80s heyday

"Batman" was once drawn by a Pinoy named Alfredo Alcala. But he got international recognition for his work on "Voltar," a character he created, inspired by the "Conan the Barbarian" novels.

Years later, Alcala became one of Marvel's long-running artists on the "Conan" comic book series.

Alcala was recruited to DC Comics in 1972 by editors Carmine Infantino and Joe Orlando, and Filipino artist Tony de Zuniga. At DC, De Zuniga worked on "Batman" and "Superman," and for Marvel, he illustrated "Thor," "X-Men" and also "Conan the Barbarian" for eight years.

Nestor Redondo was another artist discovered during that 1972 talent search. He did his tour of duty on DC's horror titles before he was eventually tasked to take over the art chores for the critically acclaimed "Swamp Thing."

Back in the '80s, I was a big fan of the Spider-Man comic strips in the newspapers and was amazed to find out that these were drawn by Floro Dery. He illustrated the syndicated "Spider-Man" strips from 1982 to 1992.

It would take another decade before the world would see a new influx of Filipino talent into the comic book studios.

## '90s constellation

Whilce Portacio rose to fame as an artist for Marvel's "Uncanny X-Men" in the '90s. He became a household name in Manila when he published the comic book "Stone" about a Pinoy action star who battled creatures that were based on Philippine mythology.

Whilce also established Starfire Studios here in the Philippines, where he trained artists like Leinil Francis Yu, Gerry Alanguilan and Edgar Tadeo. The three of them eventually got to illustrate "Wolverine," "Uncanny X-Men" and "High Roads."

Yu and Alanguilan recently finished mapping out the Man of Steel's history in "Superman: Birthright." But before they drew the

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# No longer 'Wasted'

Comics vanguard Gerry Alanguilan is now a far cry from the angry young man who created the violent comic book. But his creative juices remain unstoppable

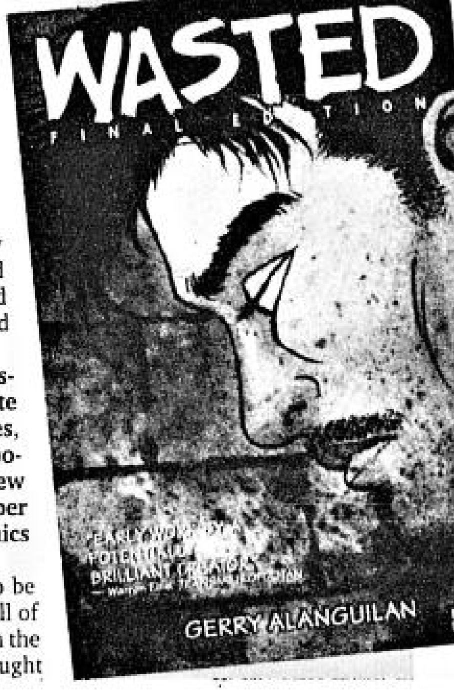
**By Linus Velasco Tiu**
*2bU! Correspondent*

SUPERHERO. Gerry Alanguilan is a prime mover in the local comics

HAD this interview taken place, say in 1995, during the creation of his seminal, ultra-violent underground book, "Wasted" (a tale of one man's decent into violence and madness), I could've ended up with a bullet through my skull—only within the pages of his comic book, hopefully.

But lucky for me, Gerry Alanguilan, inker for titles such as "Superman" and "X-Men," penciller for the indie book, "The Ochlocrat" (a sci-fi adventure about a journalist vigilante), and practically a prime mover of the new Filipino comics, has lost all his homicidal urges. In fact, he's quite the happy, accommodating guy who wrote at the start of this e-mail interview, "...*kung may* misconceptions, man, let's leave it in, *kasi* other people may have them, too"—to allay my disclaimer of being a comic book commoner.

The Laguna-based artist has come a long way after making the decision to pursue comics over architecture, despite the admonitions of friends and family members. But don't take my word for it—discover bits and pieces of Gerry Alanguilan for yourself, as he shares his thoughts on Filipino comics, his new projects ("Lastikman", and "Wasted: The Movie"), and why he's no longer wasted after all these years.



**It seems the comic industry here has picked up quite a bit, if not in terms of sales, at least in terms of exposure. How has the "New Wave"—is that the proper term?—of Pinoy comics grown since the '90s?**

A proper term has yet to be coined, but yes, with the fall of the great *komiks* industry in the '90s, many young artists sought to create their own comics with sensibilities different from the comic creators the Philippines had. These creators grew up on comics from America, Europe and Japan, and their comics reflected that not only in the stories and art that they created, but as well as in the format of the comics themselves.

I see the '90s as the birth of the new Philippine comics industry, which is steadily growing with each passing year.

**How can you describe your contributions to the growth of comics?**

I really can't tell what kind of influence I've had, if any. I do receive letters and e-mails once in a while about some work that I had made and how it had inspired people in their own lives and work.

I do try to make young artists today aware of the great body of work that our older generation of comic artists created. My small group of artists here in Laguna try to do what we can to share the works of these great masters with today's generation. Last December, we held the first San Pablo City Comics Art Festival, where we exhibited some 150 pieces of artwork.

I'm also trying to put up a museum dedicated to Philippine comics here in San Pablo City. I've already converted my apartment into a small museum of sorts, which I show to visitors. There is an online equivalent to the museum that I'm slowly building, which can be found here at www.komikero.com/museum.

**Let's talk about "Lastikman." How did you end up writing it and Arnold Arre drawing it? Is this your first time to write for comics?**

I've done some published writing before, like "Wasted" and "Tales of the Big City" for Pulp Magazine. "Lastikman," however, would be my very first writing-only gig. Mango Comics approached me about the idea of writing "Lastikman" early last year, on the strength of the writing I had done on my mini-comic, "Crest Hut Butt Shop." Mango wanted "Lastikman" to be funny, and they hoped that I could bring the comic sensibilities of Crest Hut to Lastikman.

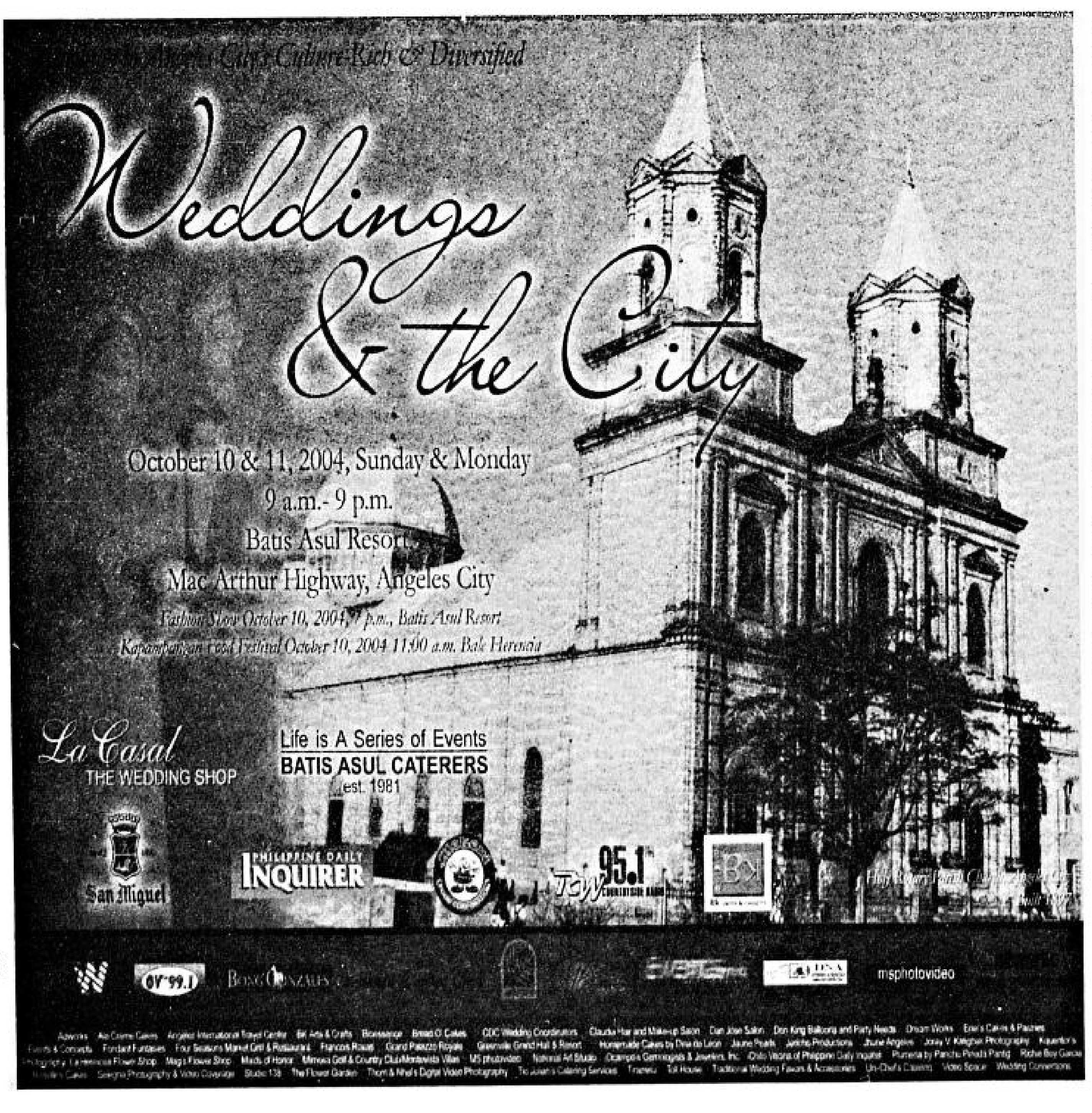
I did not think about Arnold Arre immediately. But after considering it a while, I thought Arnold would be the perfect artist for it. I still can't believe Arnold accepted the assignment. I'm in heaven because of it.

**Let's talk about "Wasted: The Movie." How close is it from being finished?**

Still a long way to go, but I've not given up on it yet. It's a totally independent production, with the director, Noel Lim, bringing in his own money for the most part and me helping out however I can. I've also gained some weight after I got married, and it's tough bringing it back down to how I was when we were shooting.

**Lastly, it's known that you created "Wasted" (1996) as a form of catharsis during a trying time in your life. But it has been years since then and you got married last 2002. How does it feel now to play your violent lead character, Eric?**

It was very hard trying to find the anger, which triggered "Wasted" in the first place. I mean, I'm completely happy now. All the stories I've been making lately have been idiotic over-the-top comedies. So it was terribly difficult to get into that "Wasted" mode again. Noel Lim, genius that he is, recognizes that and he riles me up every time we need to shoot. He's crazy. He'd insult me, say things about my weight, my writing, whatever. And he can get me really angry. But at the end of it, I think it only served the movie. I really hope we can get back to doing it again soon.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## Pinoys in the panels

From page C1

last son of Krypton, they actually drew another high-flying character: "Aster: The Last Celestial Knight," which was published by Entity Comics in cooperation with the Philippine-based C.A.T.S. Studios back in 1995.

It was penciled by Oliver Isabedra and inked by Alanguilan. Two other artists who worked on "Aster" and their spin-off books were Yu and Jay Anacleto.

Anacleto later became famous because of his photo-realistic art style in "Aria." Anacleto's next assignment was to visualize the pictures taken by cameraman Phil Sheldon in Kurt Busiek's "Marvels 2: Eye of the Camera."

J. Torres is one of just two Filipino writers who are now active in the American comic book field. He got noticed for his story "Copybook Tales," a semi-autobiographical work about a Filipino comic book writer in Canada. Torres has since written stories for "X-Men" and "Teen Titans Go!"

Arthur de la Cruz is the other Filipino writer, who also happens to draw his own stories. His "Kissing Chaos" was nominated for the 2002 Eisner Awards—the Oscar Awards for comic books.

### Other notables

The next time you go to a comic book store, look for the works of these other noteworthy Filipino comic book artists:

Lan Medina, who did work for "Stone" and "Aria," won an Eisner for his work on Vertigo's "Fables." He's currently illustrating the most emotional alien to explore space, "Silver Surfer."

Wilson Tortosa is now living the fanboy's dream of being able to work with Alex Ross, and has helped make the comic book version of "Battle of the Planets" a certified hit!

Francis Manapul is the lucky guy who gets to draw the sexy curves of "Witchblade."

Carlos Pagulayan drew "Elektra" in her sexier and more deadly poses, and is now charting the early years of the deadly mutant "Emma Frost" with his inker, Dennis Crisostomo.

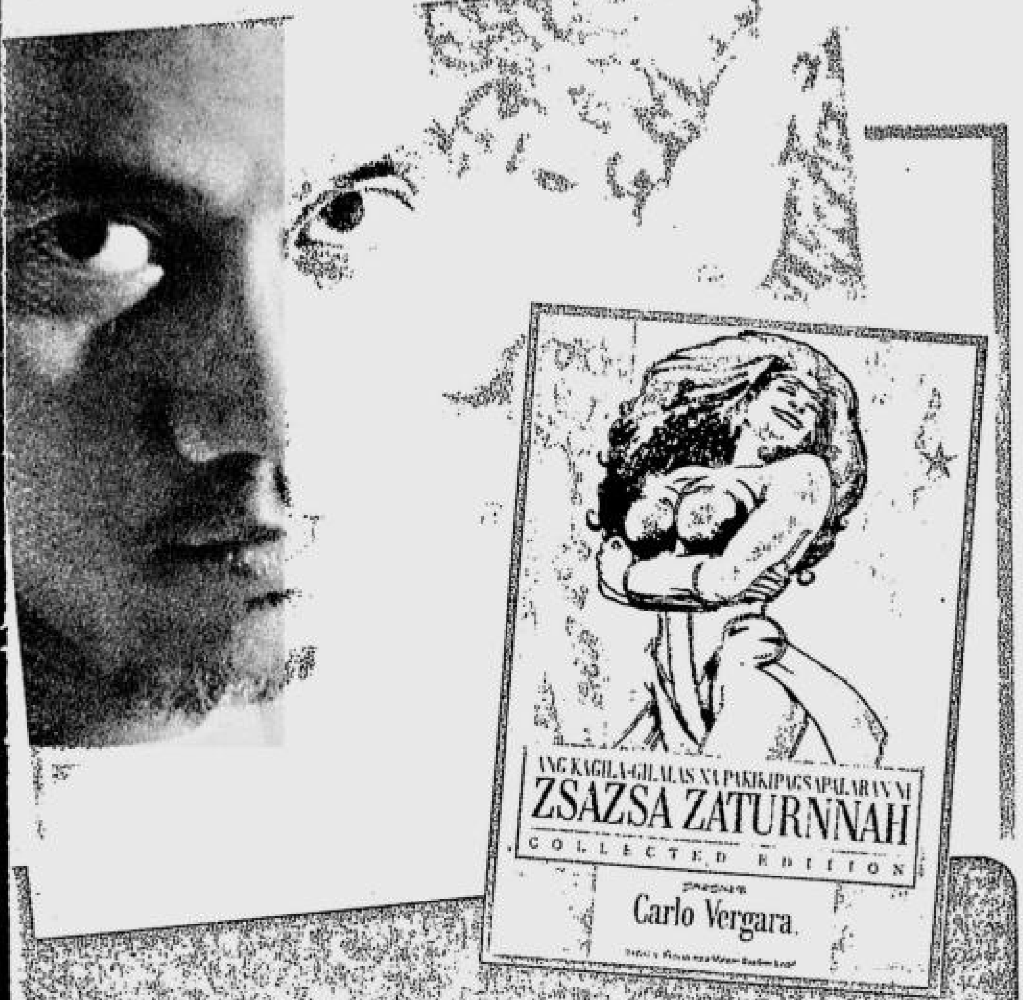
Another Filipino artist getting rave reviews is Adrian Alphona, co-creator of Marvel's "Runaways." His clean-line, animation cel-art style has made this book a runaway success.

### What's next?

Today, there is an active comic book scene in the Philippines. Lots of Pinoy comic book creators are out there, getting their stories printed in whatever form they can afford: manually photocopied or printed off-set, in color or in black-and-white.

Some books have attracted a large fan base and get good support from their readers. For most, however, it is a constant battle to convince the typical comic book buyer to spend his hard-earned allowance/salary on a local comic book rather than on his favorite Super-Mutant title.

But it is encouraging to note that the Manila Critics Circle has seen it fit to include comic books and graphic novels among the categories of its annual National Book Awards. It's also good to see that bookstores have begun carrying graphic novels on their shelves. For their exemplary work, Pinoy comics talents deserve such support, and more.



# 'Ang Kagila-gilalas na comic book ni Carlo Vergara'

**By Niño Mark M. Sablan**
*2bU! Correspondent*

THE SPECIAL-EDITION cover of "Ang Kagila-Gilalas Na Pakikipagsapalaran ni Zsazsa Zaturnnah" is a winner. The mint green and melon colors are so beautiful that you can't help but check your tongue from time to time because you're reminded of minty melons. And those watermelon-sized boobsies! They actually remind you of huge salted eggs.

On the cover, our dear superheroine poses prettily—head thrown back, eyes closed, lips curved into a smile, arms wrapped around herself. Very dainty, anti-fight mode.

But don't let this pose deceive you. You may assume that Zsazsa Zaturnnah is capable only of flirting with Superman or Mulawin, but do part with your cash, read the graphic novel in one sitting and realize that our voluptuous *bida* can also kick butt—and how!

## Extra goodies

First printed in November 2003 as a two-part mini-series, "Ang Kagila-Gilalas" is now available as a special-edition copy with extra goodies (just like a DVD): four special full-color posters and a commentary from the author, Carlo Vergara. The volume is a recipient of a Manila Critics' Circle National Book Award. *Bongga, ha?*

What isn't neat, though, is the fact that after the cover, no other page is colored (except the posters, of course). With characters and a storyline this colorful, lovely hues would've added so much more life to the comic book.

The whole story is really nothing new—you know, discovery of superpowers, encounter with villains, fight fight fight and then victory. But "Ang Kagila-Gilalas... " is actually a fresh take on the usual superhero story, with lots of relatable images and dialogue. The lines are in Filipino, by the way.

The comic book with the lengthy title stars Ada, a stiff, serious and boring gay beautician who transforms into the va-va-voom Zsazsa Zaturnnah after swallowing a mysterious stone that fell from the sky. Yes, it's Darna in drag.

Together with his best friend Didi—an equally gay fellow bursting with vigor, one-liners and eternal baby fat—Zsazsa discovers that he has incredible superpowers: great strength, high-jump capability and bulletproof cuffs a la Wonder Woman. Or, as he puts it, "*lakas ng katawan, talas ng isipan and tibay ng dibdib.*"

The riotous adventures of our fave drag queen-superheroine are now available as a special-edition volume with extra goodies

## Haute-couture posse

Of course, everybody knows that with superheroes up front, super villains can't be far behind. Zsazsa's nemesis is the English-speaking Queen Femina Suarestellar Baroux, who is always accompanied by her Amazonistas, a Spice Girls-inspired posse in haute couture with names like Nora A. and Vilma S.

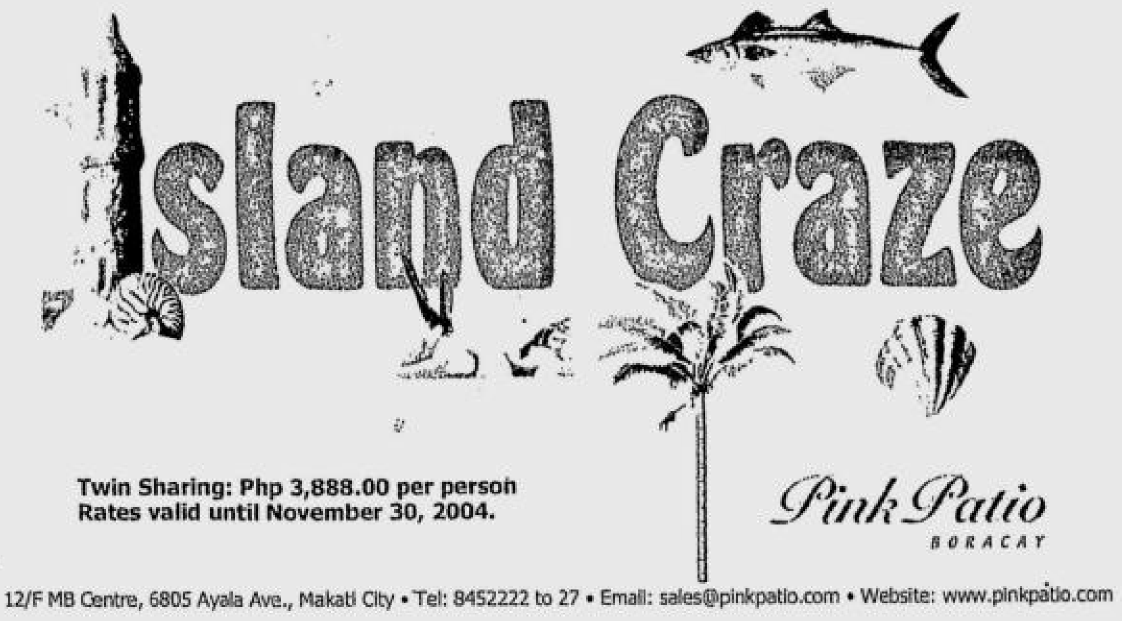
The highlight of the story is undoubtedly the showdown between Zsazsa and Queen Femina, but other memorable scenes include Zsazsa's encounter with Ada's decaying dad, and the "That's Entertainment"/"Master Showman"-worthy battle formation of the Amazonistas.

"Ang Kagila-Gilalas" is a riotously entertaining read that is worth sharing with everyone you know. The witty gay lingo is restrained and easily understandable to straight souls, yet it's still very funny. Illustrations are eye-catching and impressive, with drawing styles jumping from local *komiks* to DC/Marvel to manga.

The gay themes—Ada's issue with his father and the simple fact that Zsazsa Zaturnnah's alter ego is a flaming drag queen with superpowers—is engaging, although the special affection of town heartthrob Dodong for Ada is pretty surprising due to a lack of background on his character.

"Ang Kagila-Gilalas" deserves two (even three!) manicured thumbs up for its *Pinoy na Pinoy* creativity and entertainment value. Carlo Vergara is a genius, and Zsazsa deserves an encore.

*E-mail the author at marksablan_2bu@yahoo.com*



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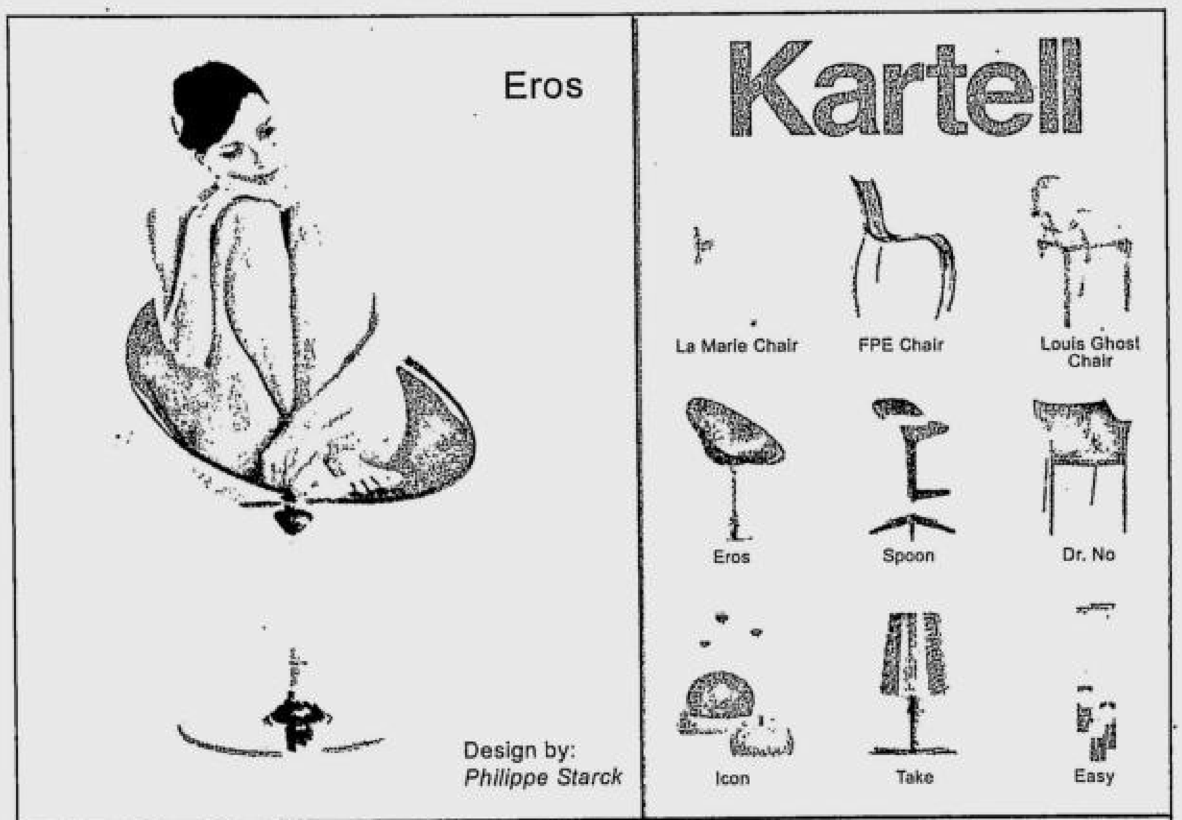

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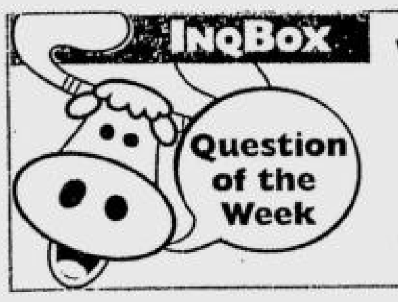
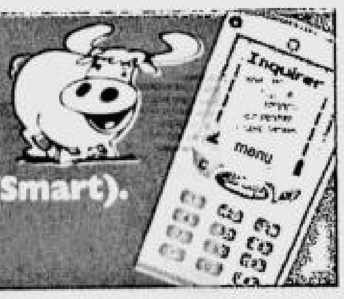

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# ClientLogic expands to the City of Pines, inaugurates new facility

Baguio City is an ideal place for vacations and holidays. Its mountaintop ambience and cool, relaxing environs make it suitable for get-togethers among family and friends who like to spend time away from the hustle and bustle of the big city.

But more than just a scenic vacation choice, the City of Pines is now home to the country's newest contact center—ClientLogic Philippines. To be inaugurated today, ClientLogic is among several companies that have made substantial investments in the city—not only for its inviting surrounding, but more so—because it is deemed as a viable commercial business district (CBD) in the northern part of the country. Unlike other contact centers that have set up facilities either in Metro Manila, Cebu or Davao, ClientLogic has found its own place in the north—at the very heart of Luzon and a thriving area for business and commerce.

ClientLogic Philippines country manager Dan Reyes said this new office is a catalyst of growth and development for Baguio City. With ClientLogic's presence in the area, Baguio is now considered one of the country's reputable business centers, with globally affiliated companies like ClientLogic, he added.

This year, ClientLogic has invested about P320 million in erecting the new Baguio site at the Baguio Export Processing Zone along Loakan Road. This brings the company's investments in the country to a total of P1.2 billion.

### More jobs and decentralization

ClientLogic in Baguio City also means additional jobs for 850 local residents and from nearby areas. So far, ClientLogic has provided jobs for close to 2,500 Filipino workers, majority of whom are new graduates. The investment is a direct answer to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for the creation of jobs. ClientLogic has heeded the President's call and is one with her commitment to help improve the lives of many by providing more jobs.

Another point in President Arroyo's pledge that was addressed here is the "decentralization of progress." Setting up a facility in Baguio is equivalent to a renewed trust in this northern community. Helping the national government achieve this goal is also part of ClientLogic's present government assistance to help boost the country's other key cities.

### Helping meet business targets

In terms of meeting business targets, more employers are given equal opportunity via ClientLogic's various contact center services. Numerous industry leaders choose ClientLogic to manage their customer relationships for one reason: ClientLogic helps its clients achieve a competitive advantage by delivering best-in-class outsourcing solutions that reduce service costs, improve customer retention and increase revenue per customer. Because of this, the playing field among huge and small companies is now even, with the assistance given by firms like ClientLogic.

### Award for CEO Garner

True to this objective, ClientLogic's President and CEO Dave Garner was given the 2004 Influential Leader award by CRM Magazine. Garner received the prestigious award for his significant achievements in company and client growth, and by leading the industry through a strategic shift in how to approach contact center outsourcing—right-shore outsourcing. CRM Magazine recognized Garner for his significant impact in the customer care service industry and helping companies increase their business potentials to significant numbers.

Globally, ClientLogic is a subsidiary of Canadian diversified company Onex Corporation. It operates in 53 locations in 12 countries throughout North America, Europe and Asia. ClientLogic offers an international suite of services including integrated customer acquisition, list management and brokerage, database design and development, multi-channel customer and technical support (phone, fax, email, chat, self-help, etc.), eCommerce services and warehousing/fulfillment. The company is among the top five global contact center providers, managing more than 140 million customer interactions in 2003.

ClientLogic, Philippines is a joint venture between ClientLogic and Salmat, Australia's largest customer communications company. For ClientLogic's local operations, the company has plans of setting up another facility in the south in the future.

### Part of the grand plan

Indeed, expect ClientLogic to lead the business community in Baguio and make the area more suitable for commerce and industry apart from being the country's Summer Capital. Helping improve the business landscape of this country is part of ClientLogic's overall plans and blueprint.

## MESSAGES

Greetings!

My heartfelt greetings to the officials and employees of ClientLogic on the opening of their latest Baguio site!

I laud ClientLogic's expansion program in the City of Pines at a time when other multinational companies are setting up offices in commercial business districts like Cebu and Davao. This contributes to our administration's goal of decongesting the country's key cities and encouraging businesses in other developing areas. ClientLogic's Baguio operations also underscore the continued viability of Philippine economy and serve to encourage other companies to invest in the country.

More than the P320 million investment by ClientLogic in erecting its Baguio facility, it's the additional 850 job opportunities that will be open to Filipino workers that will make the most difference in their lives. With this, numerous human resource workers—mostly new graduates—will be provided proper training, exposure and experience in working at a customer service firm that is world-class in technology and innovation.

I urge ClientLogic to continue providing excellent customer care service to its existing and future clients. By working together, we can push forward to success and progress for the entire Filipino people.

Again, congratulations to all of you!

GMArroyo

**GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
*President*
*Republic of the Philippines*

I would like to express my warmest felicitations to ClientLogic Philippines for the opening of its newest site in the City of Pines!

We are at a crucial time right now yet ClientLogic is here to open a new facility that will help boost business opportunities for its valued stakeholders and publics as well.

The national government fully supports the operations of ClientLogic in Baguio as it is expected to provide significant employment to numerous Filipinos in this part of the archipelago. Private companies like ClientLogic continues to form a web of support for the government in terms of revving up the country's economic engines to provide more jobs and manage better customer service for its existing client base.

With its global network, ClientLogic also offers the much-needed expertise in the customer care outsourcing market that's presently enjoying huge growth and expansion nowadays. ClientLogic is part of this expanding business portfolio that helps the economy become robust and more active.

Congratulations and more power to ClientLogic! *Mabuhay!*

**Sec. Cesar V. Purisima**
*Department of Trade and Industry*

I extend my warmest greetings to ClientLogic Philippines, Inc. as a new member of the PEZA Family. It also gives me great pleasure to congratulate ClientLogic Philippines, Inc. on the inauguration of its second contact center site in the Philippines.

ClientLogic is a leading international business process outsourcing (BPO) provider in the contact center and fulfillment industry operating in 53 locations in 12 countries worldwide. In the Philippines, ClientLogic has almost 2,500 employees and in line with the country's and PEZA's program to disperse economic activity to the countryside, has decided to put up its second contact center facility in Baguio City.

PEZA is indeed proud to be host to an industry leader locating at our Baguio City Economic Zone. We are likewise grateful to have ClientLogic Philippines, Inc. as a partner in our mission to provide quality employment to our people.

I am confident that ClientLogic Philippines, Inc. will continue its success and will continue to grow its Philippine operations.

Again, congratulations and *MABUHAY!!!*

**Atty. Lilia de Lima**
*Director General*
*Philippine Economic Zone Authority*

Let me greet my colleagues at ClientLogic for the grand inauguration of our newest Baguio facility.

Today marks a momentous occasion for all of us at ClientLogic as we continue to expand our local operations. Providing employment to more Filipinos and igniting the local economy are definitely part of our investment.

At ClientLogic, we provide the best contact center services for companies that want to improve their services—all for their clients' satisfaction. As a new and aggressive player in the Philippine contact center industry, ClientLogic hopes to achieve our corporate goals and objectives with a firm commitment and focus.

In line with that, ClientLogic worldwide is also deeply committed to the realization of our vision in bringing more business opportunities for our partners and helping the communities in which we operate.

I wish ClientLogic in the Philippines good luck!

David Garner

**Dave Garner**
*CEO*
*ClientLogic*

Allow me to congratulate my colleagues at ClientLogic Philippines!

We celebrate today with great pride and confidence for the formal inauguration of our newest facility in the country. ClientLogic is a new player in the contact center industry. We are the first contact center in Baguio City and the opening of this latest facility is part of our ongoing expansion program that seeks to help and assist our business partners achieve their targets.

With that, we become a catalyst for growth and development in this part of the country and also help boost the local economic activity through our business partners' commercial initiatives.

More power to ClientLogic and our business endeavors in the future!

**Dan Reyes**
*Country Manager*
*ClientLogic Philippines*

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# LIFESTYLE 2bU!

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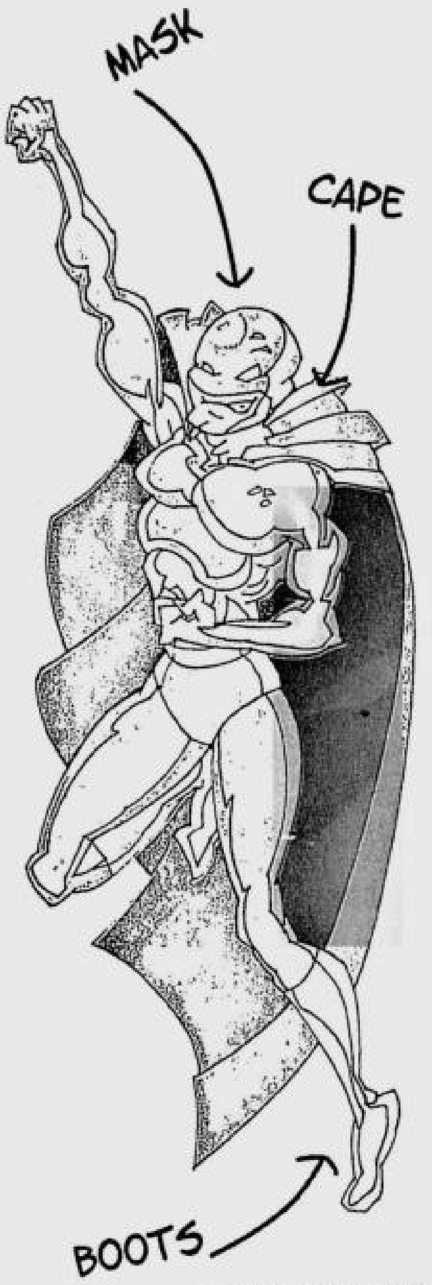
# Anatomy of a superhero

The typical caped crusader leads a double life, with an ordinary day job and an extraordinary nightlife

By Catherine Young
*2bU! Correspondent*

THE BIRTH of a superhero is often a result of death and tragedy. Bruce Wayne lost his parents and became Batman. Dick Grayson was orphaned during a circus performance and became Robin. Clark Kent grew up to be Superman after he was separated from his Kryptonite parents. Peter Parker learned responsibility the hard way when his uncle died, and

ANATOMY/D2



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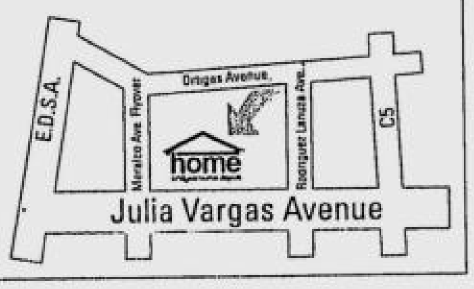

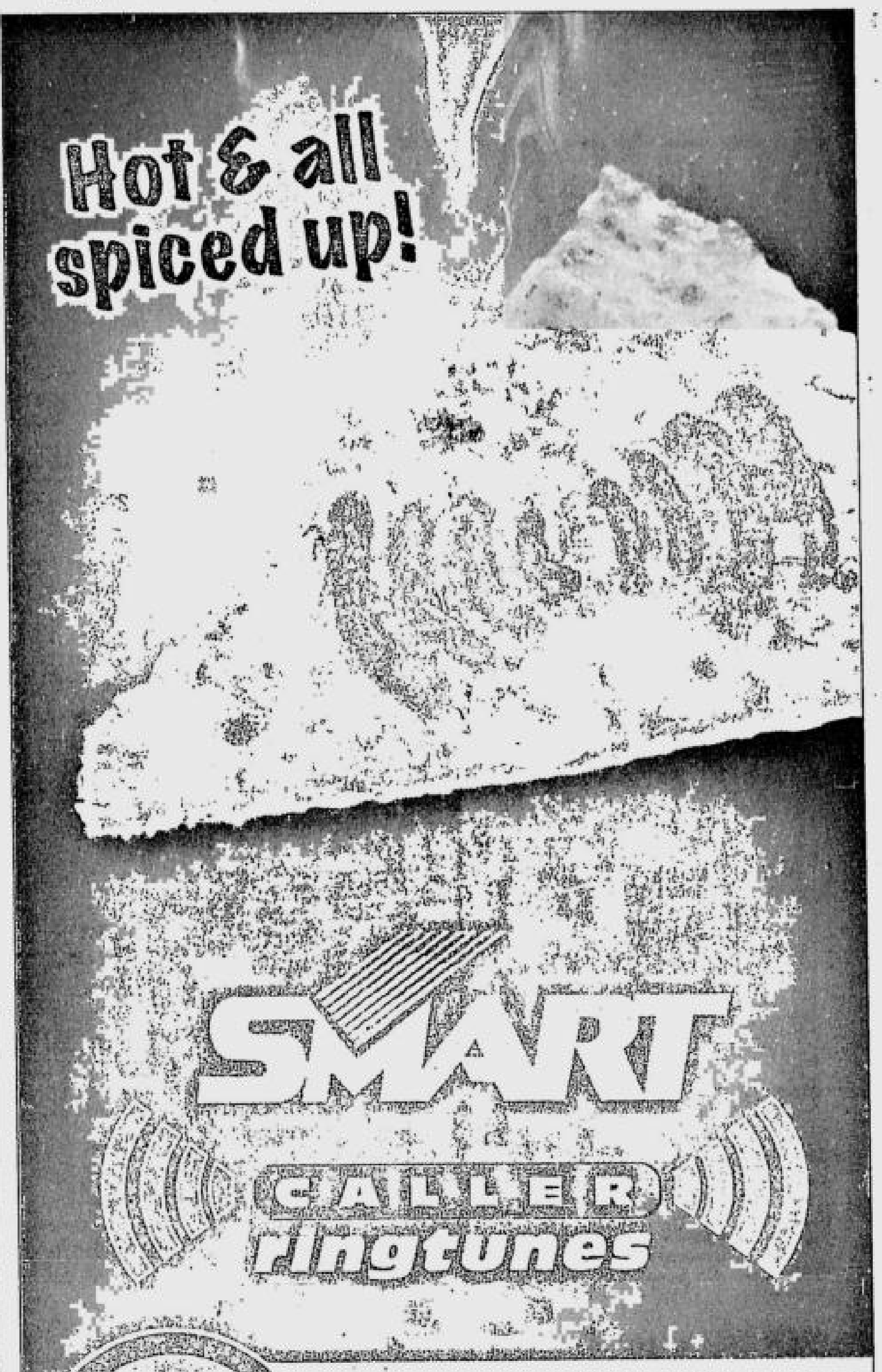

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# Anatomy of a superhero

From page D1

later became Spiderman.

The dark origin of the superhero may permanently cast a shadow over the rest of his story. But then again, this just illustrates how goodness can still come out of profound loss. Many super-villains are born out of similar backgrounds, yet they choose to take the contrary path.

Peter Coogan, author of "The Secret Origin of Superheroes" (2002), defines a superhero as "a heroic character with a selfless, prosocial mission; who possesses superpowers, advanced technology, mystical abilities or highly-developed physical and/or mental skills; who has a superidentity and iconic costume, which typically express his biography or character, powers and origin."

The typical superhero leads a double life, with an ordinary day job and an extraordinary nightlife. He hides in his constructed sanctuary and appears to be divinely ordained to watch over ordinary citizens.

The typical superhero also looks superperfect. He is often impossibly buffed, which is further enhanced by the aggressive use of spandex, and wears underwear as outwear and gets away with it.

But there seems to be no existing superhero who is at all contented with his life. His Messianic complex is always a chip on his shoulder, preventing him from making effective interpersonal contact with mere mortals.

### Emotional instability

His physical perfection is offset by an emotional instability that is his Achilles heel,. making him vulnerable and human—a lesser god. In fact, it is this brooding angst that is often used to add dimension to the character. Given a choice between having a lovelife or saving the day, he often chooses the latter—but not before agonizing over it.

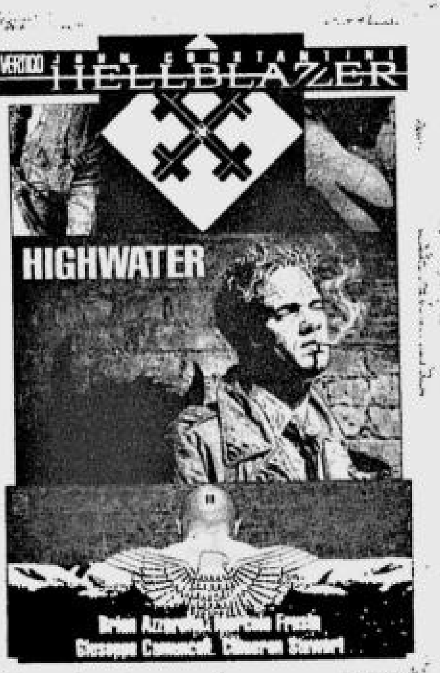
Just what is it with these flamboyantly dressed characters, and why are we so intrigued by them?

Being continuously interested in something implies necessity, and given the crises of the times, it is understandable, and therapeutic, for us to imagine someone who can solve our problems in one go. A hero is something we all need and aspire to be.

Inasmuch as our concept of superheroes evolves with time, so does the type of heroism that they embody. What we need now is the kind of heroism that will take the sustainable route in solving problems. A true hero has a heart that is capable of self-sacrifice for the benefit of many, the foresight to make the right choices, and the charisma and leadership to engender heroism in others.

To act quickly and immediately. To know his purpose and fulfill it gloriously. To maximize potential and obtain the best results for the greater good. These are what we need in a modern hero.

*E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com*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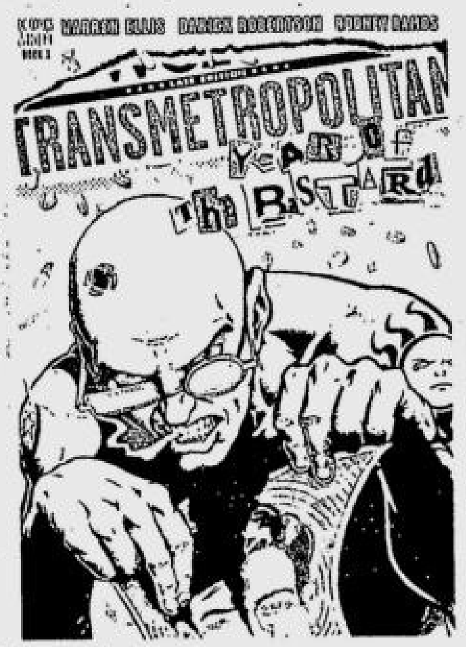
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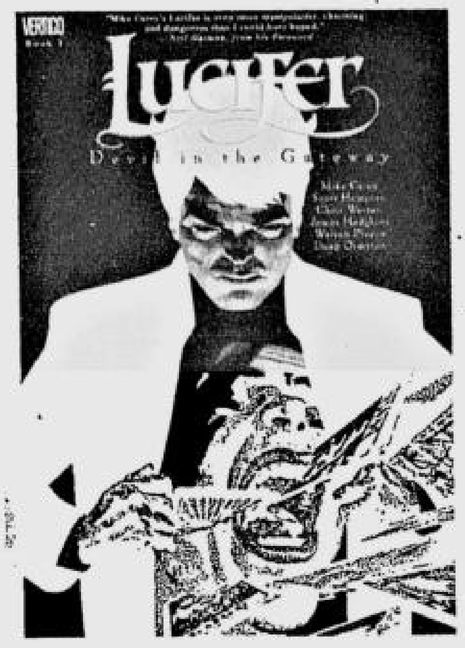
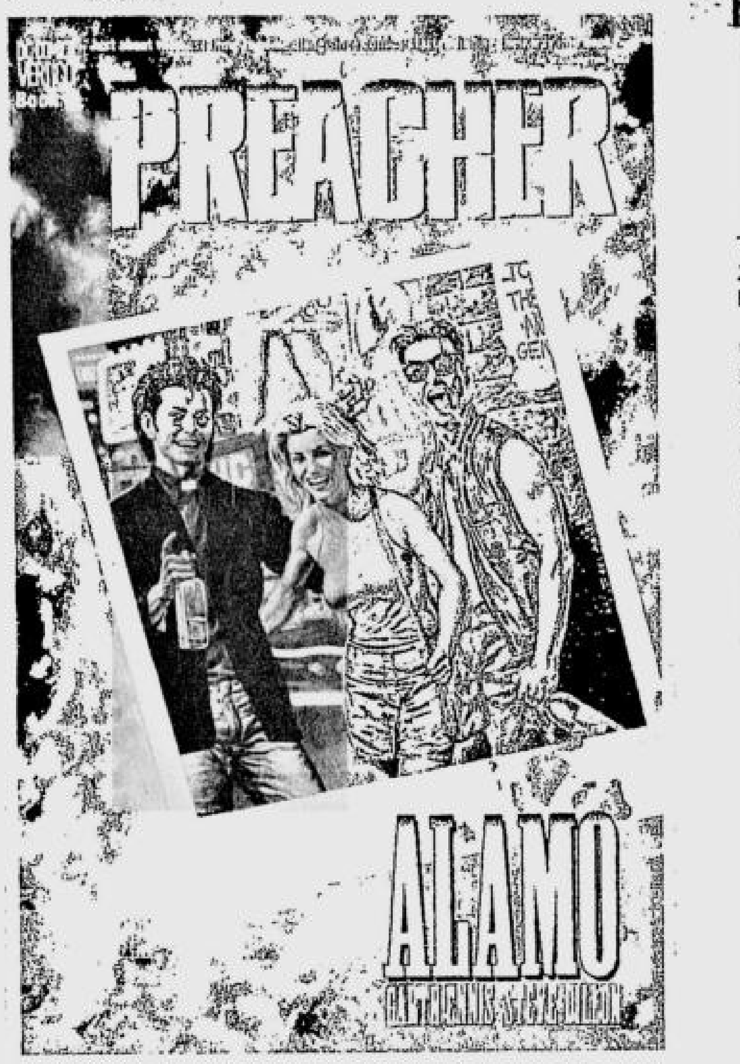




# Anti-heroes, arise!

They're closer to who we are in their imperfections, reflecting our angst, decay, ambiguities and aspirations

**By Ces Cabangon**
*Contributor*

IN these days of confusion, mayhem and difficulty, who do we look up to for succor? Heroes are great, but they fly too high. Anti-heroes, on the other hand, are closer to who we are in their imperfections. They are the smart-ass answers to a sarcastic world.

Anti-heroes are not the honest, merciful and noble idols from our youth. For anti-heroes, struggles between good and evil aren't simple: they come with personal demons hot on the pursuit. Anti-heroes reflect our angst, decay, ambiguities and aspirations.

DC's "Vertigo" line is the best place to start if you're looking for anti-heroes. Well known for carrying Neil Gaiman's "The Sandman," "Vertigo" features anti-heroes as worthy of mention as Gaiman's Morpheus. Heroes who don't don capes or spandex but curse heavily, blithely walk the road to excess, fight hard, drink deep and chain-smoke like there's no tomorrow—each living dangerously close to the edge of madness, death and delight.

Themes found in these comics touch on issues that are appropriate for more mature readers. These works aren't for bigots; after all, good literature doesn't have room for the weak-hearted and the narrow-minded.

The emergence of the anti-hero shouldn't be interpreted negatively. Anti-heroes teach us the hard lessons of choice and consequences. Their presence is a reminder of our evolution—that we are growing up, perhaps the hard way, but hopefully towards the day when the only heroes we'd need to turn to would be ourselves.

Now that you have been warned, it's time to familiarize yourself with these characters.

### Hellblazer's John Constantine

John Constantine is a liar, traitor, murderer, manipulator, adulterer and a powerful magus who has literally been to hell and back, making him all the more wise and cocky. He's saved the world a number of times but fights for neither heaven nor hell, earning the ire of both factions. Loyal only to himself, he has more tricks up his sleeve than the Devil himself.

Ghosts of friends and lovers hound John, and at times, the pain of this leads him to self-destruction. He knows what it's like to be among the lowest of the low; he's seen and done it all. Despite his resilient exterior, John has a deep understanding of the dark depths of human nature few characters in comics have. Still, he manages to get by and live with himself—armed with his stash of smokes and drink in hand.

### Preacher's Jesse Custer

Jesse Custer looks like your ordinary reverend, but with a shady past, a vampire for a best friend and a gun-slinging girlfriend. Jesse controls an entity that allows him to enforce his will upon others. Hunted by men, Jessie goes after God the Almighty, who he feels has a lot of explaining to do for pulling an Awol from Heaven.

Jesse doesn't want to save the world when he has problems of his own to deal with. Tough but moral and compassionate, he walks in gray areas to carry out a sense of justice cultivated from the streets and a twisted family.

He has lost God but has found love and a merry company of friends who'll stick with him no matter what. He's on a mission to settle things with God, and no apocalyptic design will daunt him.

### Lucifer

Lucifer wants what we all want—to be in control of our own destiny. Obsessed with escaping God's plan, he decides to quit hell and put up his own piano bar in Los Angeles.

His retirement is short-lived, as heaven recruits him for a mission. Payment for the Devil's services doesn't come cheap, and soon Lucifer is able to create a universe to rival God's own.

Lucifer is ambitious, self-motivated, selfish and will do anything to get his way. At the same time, he is the ultimate expression of free will and self-determinism.

We love Mike Carey's Lucifer because he's beautiful, clever, rebellious, sardonic and actually has a sense of humor. He symbolizes freedom and responsibility, which isn't easy for anyone since there is always hell to pay. Unlike us, that is something Lucifer is always ready for.

### Transmetropolitan's Spider Jerusalem

Spider is the City's most sought-after journalist and the man law enforcers and politicians would love to kill, if only they could get away with it. Spider's unorthodox methods of reporting serve to unravel the only thing that matters to him most: the truth.

He will beat the truth out of you, and if you dare hide it from him, he will gun you down with his bowel disruptor. Spider lives in the city, which represents every city with its apathy and brutality. Spider hates the city, but it's where he feels most alive.

Spider is intelligent, foul-mouthed, but above all, uncompromising with his principles and work. The man believes in making a difference. Sure, he's a junkie and a hypocrite, but in times when people would rather blissfully ignore the truth in a messed-up world, we need guys like him to scream the truth out loud to our faces.

# Tales that astonish

*Astonishing X-Men*
*Writer: Joss Whedon*
*Artist: John Cassaday*
*Publisher: Marvel Comics*
*Issues Reviewed: Astonishing X-Men #1-4*

**By Adrian Dy**
*2bU! Correspondent*

THIS year's revamp of the X-Men line has, once again, turned the spotlight on Marvel Comics and its editor in chief, Joe Quesada—and not exactly in a good way.

Long-time X-writer Chris Claremont just bored millions of readers to death by cramming in as many word balloons into one panel as humanly possible. The ever-controversial Chuck Austen continued to draw much ire from fans for his awful characterization and dialogue (so much, in fact, that he is slated to be replaced by former X-Statix writer Peter Milligan).

However, all is not doom and gloom for the House of Ideas and their band of merry mutants. The new crowning glory from the Xavier Institute of Higher Learning has drawn accolades from fans and critics alike, and has drawn in thousands of new fans to the world's best-selling super team.

Bannered by TV phenomenon Joss Whedon (creator of Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel), and featuring linework from one of the most raved-about artists in the biz, John Cassaday, "Astonishing X-Men" is the biggest thing to hit the comics world since, well, Chris Claremont and Jim Lee relaunched the X-Men way back in the early '90s.

Most of the buzz is due obviously to the star power of self-proclaimed X-Men fan Whedon. No stranger to the comics world, he's done several issues of the comic version of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," as well as a Buffy spin-off mini-series called Fray for Dark Horse Comics.

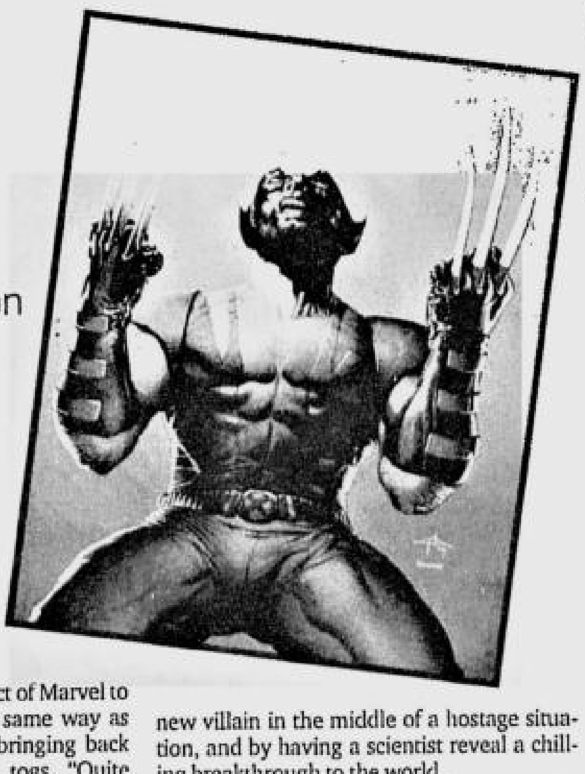
### Hip and tongue-in-cheek

Whedon brings what he does best in Buffy to this book—hip, tongue-in-cheek dialogue and tight, focused plotting. It certainly doesn't hurt that the line-up he's working with are some of the most beloved X-Men: Cyclops, Wolverine, Beast, Shadowcat and White Queen.

He works magic with what is perhaps the smallest team since the X-Men started. Whether it's Wolverine's tough-guy attitude, White Queen's dry, sarcastic wit, Beast's techno-babble, Cyclops's "I'm the leader" tone, or the "coming back home" vibe of the reader's POV character, Shadowcat, Whedon's got the dialogue down pat.

In particular, the pointed vocal sparring between Shadowcat and White Queen is hilarious, as is Wolverine's deliciously sharp-edged personality, which is cause for some occasional in-fighting. (As one student at the Mansion says, "So, what—the teachers spend all their time here trying to kill each other? This place is so cool.")

The X-Men gloriously return with Joss Whedon and John Cassaday's crackerjack rescue of the franchise



Whedon also undoes the edict of Marvel to have the characters dress the same way as their movie counterparts, by bringing back the always popular spandex togs. "Quite frankly, all the black leather is making people nervous," Cyclops notes, to which Wolverine mutters, "Here come the tights..."

Another thing Whedon imports from his TV experience is pacing. One can easily imagine this book to become the basis for the next X-Men movie sequel, as it does a bang-up job of establishing the setting, getting the reader familiar with the characters and their motivations, setting up the plot by introducing a new villain in the middle of a hostage situation, and by having a scientist reveal a chilling breakthrough to the world.

The second issue shows the X-Men working like an actual team to combat the new villain with a SWAT-like efficiency. Of course, things don't go as smoothly as planned in that battle, and it takes the reappearance of an all-time favorite X-character to save the day.

Whedon keeps the pressure building with a cliffhanger in issue three, seemingly priming readers for the return of the recently buried Jean Grey. Only to blindside with the return of someone that drew collective raves from wide.

### Clean and detailed pencils

The fact that Whedon is aided of the most sought-after artists Cassaday (whose portfolio includes favorite "Planetary" and the first the "Marvel Knights Captain America" the excitement notch up to eleven.

Boasting some of the cleanest detailed pencils this side of Bryan saday draws the best interpretation Men to be seen in a long time. The spread of a Sentinel attack in breathtaking.

But it's not just the action scenes does well. He manages to capture right emotions Whedon's script wants ject, best seen in Shadowcat's stunne tion to the return of the dead X-Man 4. Cassaday is also one of those artist do not skimp on backgrounds. When Men begin using the Danger Room other than training, Cassaday takes and runs away with it, creating backdrops for the team's conferences.

Overall, this is the best X-book on the market, whether you're an old someone new to it. Whedon and present some fantastic stories that need to rely on the genuine weirdnes was a major component of the Grant Morrison era.

Although the pair originally signed only 12 issues, Marvel should move heaven and earth to keep this duo on board.

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CCHQ'S interiors

THE STORE setup encourages browsing and lingering around.

# COMIC HEAVEN

ext by Tiffany Limsico
*bU! Correspondent*
hotos by Jing Eustaquio

HAD once written off comics from my life. inding no affinity for Japanese *manga* or merican superheroes in spandex, I found yself only remotely interested in "Dilbert," 'athy," "The Far Side" and the rest of the funies. I had given away all my "Archie" comics my brother. I had read Alan Moore, but I ever bought it for myself.

It took two things to change my mind: a oyfriend who dragged me along to get his eekly fix of comics, and a comic store called CHQ.

Everyone who has been there is sure to say this isn't your average comic store. Unlike the more established comic book chains, Central Comics Headquarters or CCHQ has a healthy dose of everything that any fan girl or boy might enjoy: *manga*, Western and indie comics, a corner shelf devoted to Neil Gaiman, action figures, an array of local titles.

Located in a quiet, almost-dreary building facing Ateneo, the store has never engaged in advertising of any sort. It was established on the principle that, "if you build it, they will come." And the customers have not stopped coming since 2002.

## Beyond stereotypes

In fact, CCHQ manages to break the stereotypes most people have about comic stores. There are no cranky salespeople who need you to repeat the obscure title you're looking for. Owned and managed by sisters Kristine and Katherine Cheng Chua, this is one store that happens to know its merchandise. Drop by the store on any given day, and one or both of the sisters will be hanging around to assist you.

> Located in a low-key building facing Ateneo, CCHQ breaks the stereotypes most people have of stores like it

READ 'em and reap.

At CCHQ, the setup encourages browsing and lingering around. The comics are easily accessible. Kristine says they envisioned the store as "less a place for people to get their stuff and more as a place to congregate and enjoy with other people."

New stocks come in every Friday. You can place orders of titles not available on the shelves and receive the latest American releases in as little as two weeks.

This year, CCHQ was the only store in the Philippines to participate in Free Comic Book Day, a US-based yearly event that allows anyone to walk into a comic store and obtain comics for free. Last July 3, the store gave away 32 comic titles to customers who accumulated enough purchases in the preceding month.

## New literature

Aside from building a community of comic readers, Kristine counts education as another thrust of CCHQ.

"Comic books have become more than a cult thing," she says. "It is a hobby, an investment. The graphic novel is now a form of literature."

Thus, if you bring your own independently produced comic book to CCHQ, the store may even help you sell it without any profit on its part.

Some of the titles the store recommends are "Lone Wolf and Cub" (the basis of "Road to Perdition"), Art Spiegelman's memoir, "Maus," a Pulitzer-Prize winning work, and "Jimmy Corrigan: the Smartest Kid," another award-winning comic book.

*CCHQ is located at the 3/F, FBR Arcade, Katipunan, QC. Visit cchq.com.ph.*

*Send feedback or questions to tifflimsico@yahoo.com*

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# Rags to go

ext by Linus Velasco Tiu
*bU! Correspondent*
hotos by John Pabalan

> Check out three of the most popular destinations among initiates for the latest in comic books and graphic novels

HE '90S saw the boom of comics in the hilippines, with comic shops naturally llowing suit. But as the Internet, video ames and other diversions came bout—along with the painful spike in rices (you could get a decent comic book r P70 back in '95)—the stores dwindled own to a strong and stable few.

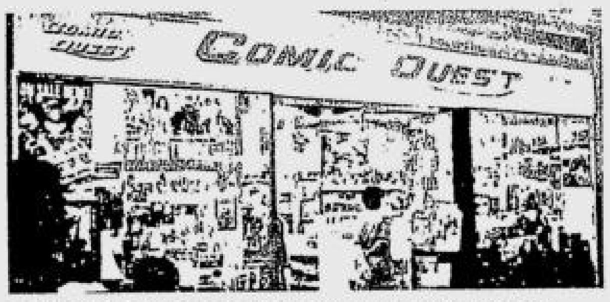
Today, only a handful exists. Meet two of e oldest players in the industry, and a ew one with a different approach.

## Comic Quest

"We love our work. And we try hard to ive the best service possible," says propritor Vinnie Simbulan, when asked about the secret to his shop's longevity.

It's this simple work ethic that has propelled Comic Quest from its humble beginnings in 1985 to the establishment that it is today. With branches in BF Homes, Parañaque, SM Megamall and Festival Mall in Alabang, Comic Quest maintains a large, varied selection of titles both for the die-hard fan and the casual reader.

ILBAR'S has the most inexpensive prices for US comic books.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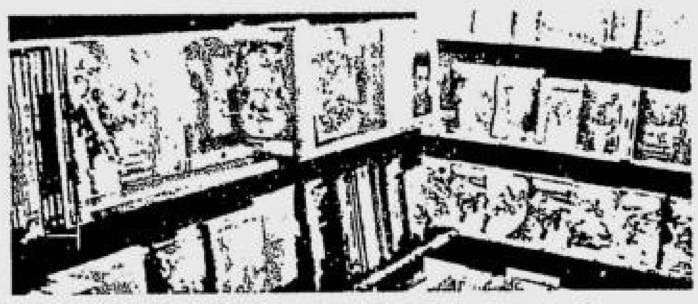
FULLY BOOKED carries a number of titles for mature readers.

One can find the usual Marvel and DC titles, a wide array of *manga* and animé, and a host of books for those with mature tastes. But whatever the title is, customers can be sure of one thing: They can get their comics earlier than usual, since Comic Quest holds a policy of maintaining a one- to two-day lead on new stocks over its competitors.

With Simbulan at the helm, discriminating collectors are also assured that choice titles are available, since the owner himself genuinely loves comics, preferring, he says, "mostly fantasy and some superhero titles." Currently, he's into Arrowsmith from DC/Cliffhanger comics and WE3 from Vertigo.

But ultimately, of course, selection is mostly based on a title's sales history and the creative team behind it. With prices ranging from P135 to P180 for the regular comic book, Comic Quest offers not only reasonably priced comics, but also an inviting atmosphere for comics enthusiasts of all stripes.

## Filbar's

Even if you're not a comic collector, if you haven't heard of Filbar's, you must have been living under a rock.

The comic book-cum-magazine shop has lived through the highs and lows of shopping trends to become a permanent fixture in the business.

Its motto is: "Customer First or We're Last," and proof of this is the friendliness of its store personnel, who really take time out to chitchat with customers.

Started by entrepreneur Fil Barbasa in 1979, Filbar's boasts of having the most inexpensive prices for U.S. comics, back issues and collectibles. Among its unique services is the "Filbar's Power Club"—a bulletin board and forum within its website (www.filbar's.com) where comic junkies can meet and swap stories—and e-mail blasts to update members on new arrivals.

At Filbar's, an average book priced is at P135. Barbasa says a book's artist, writer and inker play a big part in attracting readers. Well-known artists such as Jim Lee and Michael Turner command a big following in the market. Among writers, names like Neil Gaiman, Jeph Loeb and Brian Michael Bendis are top of mind.

With its 22 retail stores and some 50 satellite stores nationwide, Filbar's will surely satiate your comic book cravings wherever you are.

## Fully Booked

Fully Booked is probably the last place any comic book fan would run to for his fix, given the rows upon rows of high-brow literature that confront the visitor.

But the folks behind Fully Booked know that comics offer a reading experience that can be just as good, if not better, than any current bestseller. That's why the bookstore carries a number of alternative and mature reader titles like the adaptation of Franz Kafka's "Metamorphosis" and Neil Gaiman's "Violent Cases." But here's the clincher: They only carry graphic novels.

There's good reason for that. "Selling comics are significantly more difficult than selling graphic novels, since these are quite thin and would need to be individually bagged and placed with backing boards to protect them," says a Fully Booked staff. "We would also need special displays for comics, which our bookshop does not have the space for, given the other merchandise we need to display as well."

But this limitation is balanced by offering what the store believes is the most complete line of graphic novels in the country, which range from P400 to P3,000. Complementing this trove is a comprehensive line of superhero statues and busts that any serious collector would die for.

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# The story so far

## (Warning: spoilers!)

**Issue #1:** The Xavier Institute of Higher Learning has reopened its doors for the education of mutants after being destroyed by Magneto. Among the faculty is Kitty Pryde (Shadowcat), who returns from college to serve as student-faculty liaison. Cyclops advocates a return to the team's superhero roots, and not a moment too soon as a mysterious new villain launches a hostage attack. At the same time, across New York, a scientist announces in a press conference that she has discovered a cure for the mutant gene.

**Issue #2:** The X-Men manage to defeat the human thugs of the new threat, Ord of the Breakworld who seems to be an alien, but run into problems defeating Ord himself. That is, until Shadowcat's pet dragon Lockheed appears out of nowhere to save the day. The reaction to the cure is mixed, particularly among the students at the Xavier Institute. Without telling anyone else, Beast makes takes a trip to visit the scientist who has created the cure, who happens to be an old colleague of his. It turns out his intention is not to destroy the cure, but to see if it works.

**Issue #3:** Shadowcat's tenure as student-faculty liaison gets off to a rocky start. Cyclops discovers that the human terrorists in Issue 1 were armed with experimental Shield weaponry and he suspects that Shield's director, Nick Fury, may know more than he lets on. Ord turns out to be involved in developing the mutant cure, and Wolverine and Beast tussle when Wolverine finds out that Beast intends to use the cure to revert back to being human. All thoughts of that momentarily cease when Beast discovers that the cure may have been tested on mutants—on one dead mutant in particular, Jean Grey (Phoenix).

**Issue #4:** The team launches an assault on the facility housing the cure. At the same time, Ord sneaks into the X-Mansion and attacks the students there. Beast and Wolverine discover that other mutants have been murdered to test the cure, while Cyclops and White Queen are discovered by guards, with Cyclops getting shot in the process. Meanwhile, Shadowcat sneaks into the lowest level of the facility, a prison, and is also attacked by guards. In desperation, she opens the closest door, which opens to reveal an X-Man long thought dead, Colossus.

---

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Name ____ Age ____ Gender ____
Home Address ____
School ____ Tel ____ Cellphone ____ Signature ____

1) Do you read comics or comics strips in newspapers? ____Yes ____No (If No, answer only questions 3&4)

2) How often do you read comics or comics strips in newspapers? ____Everyday ____4-6 times a week ____1-3 times a week ____2-3 times a month ____once a month ____less than once a month

3) What particular comics genre do you usually read? Please rank them where 1 is the genre read most often:
____humor
____sci-fi
____fantasy/ magic
____drama
____educational
____romance
____crime and mystery
____superhero
____parody/ satire
____horror
____manga/ japanese animation

4) Please name 5 of your favorite comics/ comic strip titles:
a) ____
b) ____
c) ____
d) ____
e) ____

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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# Cathy on Cathy

**By Catherine Young**
*2bU! Correspondent*

NOTHING starts an initial connection as fast as having the same name. Admittedly, my affinity to the comic strip "Cathy" started because we had the same monicker.

I've been reading the strip for years now, sometimes identifying with her crises, other times bewildered at how she can spend so much time freaking out over her life instead of living it.

"Cathy" started in November 1976. Her creator, Cathy Guisewite, started the comic strip as an alternative to her usual diary entries. Eventually, she started creating it for her family, who encouraged her to submit them for publication.

It was fortunate that at that time, the comic industry was looking for a character to whom the modern working woman could relate. Thus, "Cathy" was introduced to the world.

It's not easy being a girl in the 21st century, with technology oftentimes making life more difficult and where fad diets are treated more seriously than the Ten Commandments.

Dealing with consumerism, men and relationships through the eyes of Cathy (my alter ego) was both hilarious and exhausting. In a sense, it made me cope with my issues more easily, because at least her humor gave it all some perspective.

## Shopping ordeal

In the 21st century, for instance, shopping has definitely become a chore—no, an ordeal. The choices and the created needs in this era of excess are simply overwhelming.

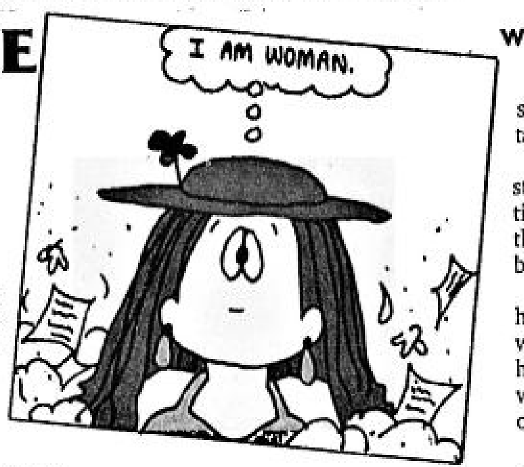
Like "Cathy," I get confused at all the variations available out there. Once, all I wanted was to buy a journal, but I ended up spending hours choosing one. White paper or brown? Lined sheets or blank? Spiral or bound? Soft bound or hardback? Perfumed or unscented?

And the inevitable question diary makers ask, which makes the decision harder than it's worth: Which journal best fits my personality? And for a girl who sometimes feels she has multiple ones, should she just buy them all?

Please don't even let me get started on the pens.

Now I have a huge collection of notebooks and journals, and it's taking forever to write on all of them. I've finally given a big chunk of it to my friends. After all, spending more time writing about life instead of living it would leave you with nothing to write about.

## Gender conundrum



College can oftentimes be a genderless world. I'm sure this is unintentional (and with apologies to my wonderful guy friends who remain the exceptions), but there is a dearth of gentlemen in the academic world. I'm pretty sure, though, that the boys don't exactly find an abundance of stereotyped damsels-in-distress either.

The environment is just too competitive, and the tasks are just too many to insist on setting archaic hunter-gatherer roles.

Like many single people in college, I sometimes feel I'm one of the few straight ones left. I'm serious. It's like a cult of the Straight but Great, a breakaway group from the Gay and Away.

We are stuck on our end of the sexual spectrum, while others have hopped, skipped and pogo-sticked their way from one end to the other, experiencing all the colors available out there, while we wallow in dull monotones.

Thus the appeal of "Cathy," where the stark distinction that Guisewite creates between the sexes strikes me as a two-dimensional PG-13 version of "Sex and the City," Bridget Jones and other such touchstones of latter-day feminism.

Simply put, it allows women to reclaim their femininity through a protagonist who is inebriated with the same issues in our contemporary culture. And who remains unapologetic about it.

Naturally, I love the fact that Guisewite is finally letting her character get married. In a world where a large proportion of men is gay or undecided, it is a comfort to know that all of us women still have a chance to pass on their genes and not wind up as involuntary spinsters living with their cats.

## Nuanced to death

And on that note, perhaps the most significant feature of "Cathy" is how she deals with relationships. She is literally a manifestation of the excessive psychoanalysis of her creator, who owns up to much of her character's issues.

Her way of thinking—neurotic breakdowns included—is both the strength and weakness of our generation. We think too much. We overanalyze the nuances in our lives, which is sometimes a good thing because we don't take things at face value.

And yet we spend more time deconstructing underlying symbols in our relationships instead of nurturing them. Our thoughts are overprocessed, yet our bonds are half-baked.

Oddly enough, the more the years have passed, the less I am empathizing with "Cathy." At best, the strip is now a humorous commentary on the pressures we encounter in our environment and our own selves.

At worst, it does get a little whiny. I'm surprised none of the characters have popped an artery. And frankly, I'm beginning to think all the neuroses in the world will not prevent life from passing you by.

Now that I have a better sense of balance in my life, I appreciate "Cathy" in a different way. I still love how she thinks of the bigger picture and the consequences of her actions, even if it's something as ordinary as eating inorganic vegetables. And I love how she can still blend witty sarcasm with youthful idealism, despite everything she's been through.

It is this indomitable spirit that adds a third dimension to the otherwise two-dimensional world of comic strips like "Cathy."

*E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com*

# UST Varsitarian holds national campus press workshop

THE VARSITARIAN, the 76-year old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold "Inkblots 2004: The Sixth UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship" on Oct. 18 to 20 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex of the UST Beato Angelico Building.

The fellowship will consist of seminars in news writing, sports writing, investigative reporting, features writing, culture and lifestyle writing, Filipino literature, column writing, cartooning, photojournalism, creative non-fiction, science and technology writing, and broadcast journalism.

The fellowship is open to all college writers, campus press advisers, high school journalism instructors and school officials.

Invited resource speakers include Teodoro Locsin, Jr. (publisher, Today), Max Soliven (publisher, Philippine Star), Che-che Lazaro (producer, Probe), Lourdes Molina-Fernandez (editor-in-chief, Today), Ruel de Vera (associate editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine), Sheila Coronel (director, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism), Marites Vitug (editor in chief, Newsbreak), Romy Gacad (photographer, Agence France Press) and Bam Aquino (chair, National Youth Council).

There will be a P850 registration fee covering the workshop kit, supplementary materials, lunch and snacks. Deadline for registration is on Oct. 1. Pre-registration is required.

Visit the Varsitarian office at Rm. 112, UST Main Building or call 7313101 loc. 8235 and look for Ryan Reyes or Tina Lavapie (0920-5631352). E-mail varsitar@yahoo.com or register online at www.varsitarian.com.

# Big hearts wanted

HAVE you been devoting your time to making the world a better place? Have you been pledging your hours to good causes? Do you know someone dedicated to service?

Join "Change the World Through Volunteerism: The Search for the Best Student Volunteer."

We are looking for the college students with a passion for volunteerism. You can nominate yourself or nominate someone else you know.

Send us a photo copy of the nominee's school ID, photos of the nominee and answers to this questionnaire:

**Name/ Age/ School/ Course:**

**Tell us about your volunteer experience (projects, organizations):**

**Which cause are you most passionate about? (e.g. Poverty, environment, etc.)**

**Why should you be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer?**

Entries may be sent to "Change the World Through Volunteerism: The Search for the Best Student Volunteer," Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Don Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City, or e-mailed at changetheworld@inquirer.com.ph.

Deadline of submission is on Oct. 11, 12 noon. All nominees will automatically receive a gift pack from Hands On Manila and the INQUIRER.

We will be selecting 20 nominees who will each get a gift pack from Bench and be featured in the pages of 2bU!

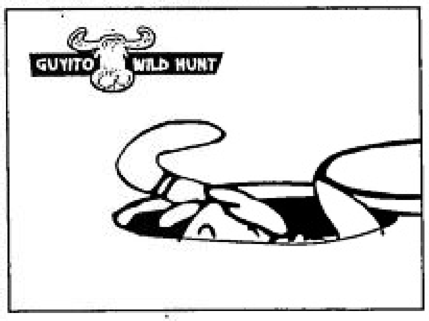
On Oct. 24, Hands On Manila and INQUIRER will have a whole-day affair at the NBC Tent called "VIP: Volunteer in Person," in celebration of the third anniversary of Hands On Manila.

This event, which is sponsored by EON, Inc., Bench/HerBench, kiddieparty.com, will be a fun full-day celebration of the selfless act of volunteerism. At this event, the top 20 nominees will be escorted down the ramp by UAAP players, models and celebrities in a fashion show directed by Ariel Lozada.

The three best volunteers will also be announced at this event, along with the winner of the People's Choice category.

Winners will receive plaques and exciting prizes.

All these, because your big heart and generous spirit deserve to be in the spotlight.



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# If I were a cartoon character...

**By Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas**
*2bU! Correspondent*

IF YOU were a comic book character, who would you be? This week, as we celebrate comic and cartoon heroes, we asked people this question. Here are some of the answers we got.

I'd probably be Spider-Man, because we're both underdogs. Life doesn't cut us any slack, but we still meet life head on.—**MRpseudonym, 22**

I used to identify myself with Betty Cooper from Archie Comics. While I was far from being blonde, I was the studious, goody-two-shoes type. She was so sincere in helping others and doing what's right, that she became my role model for a time.—**Samantha, turning 19 but still a kid in many ways**

Jughead Jones, because he's a bum and he loves to eat good food like me. Most people think he's useless, but inside that laziness is the most interesting person on earth.—**Girl with a broken smile, 16**

Spidey, because he's a weirdo and a geek. And because he's a guy trying to do the right thing, often without the means to.—**Webhead fan, 21**

Belle from "Beauty and the Beast." She's lively and energetic—**Kulot,16**

Pocahontas, because I'm adventurous and I love running around and "saving my people..."—**Inictus Treesus, 16**

Cinderella... it's all about the fairy tales and magic for me!—**Supah Star,16**

Esmeralda (from "Hunchback of Notre Dame"), because I look like her and I like her.—**Tats, 15**

Emma Peel of the Avengers. She's smart, sassy, stylish and is not afraid to speak her mind. She can make people shut up just by her presence, and reduce them to nodding idiots through her charm.—**Ness Doctor, 2bU! correspondent, heckler**

Wolverine from the X-Men. Wolverine emphasizes certain qualities that I like to think are characteristic of me, and if not, certainly of who I want to become. His toughness, for example, which is derived from his mindset. He is not a quitter, and I can certainly learn from that quality of mental fortitude. He also follows his instincts and listens to all his senses. He is in touch with the world around him and is very keen to anticipate what's going on around him.—**Arvind Budhram**

Angelica Pickles, because I sometimes get bratty when things don't go my way.—**Me, 19**

Calvin (of "Calvin and Hobbes"), because we have the same imaginative mind that most of the time separates us from the real world.—**David Agawin, 23**

Darla from the MTV animated series. Darla is a no-nonsense character who is numb to emotions and takes life as it is. I wish I could be like her.—**jess_fishbone17Ü**

Sleeping Beauty, *kasi* I love to sleep! I'm almost a hypersomniac! *Tapos*, beauty *pa ako, di ba*?—**Didit, 20**

Margaret of "Dennis the Menace," because I'm probably as crazy as her. And she's loyal to Dennis, too!—**Binkki, 20**

Susie Derkins (of "Calvin and Hobbes"). We're prudes, we're highly obsessive-compulsive, and we're both in a constant state of denial, crush-wise.—**Angela I., 21**

Peter Parker, especially after Spider-Man 2, because, "there's a hero in all of us... and sometimes we have to give up the things we want the most for others..."—**joseca, 21**

Calvin, because I'm a misunderstood autistic who stopped counting his age at six.—**JR Victorio, 21**

Calvin, because he's idealistic and cynical at the same time.—**Chel, 23**

Spider-Man! I'm always broke *kasi* and I have to balance a lot of responsibilities in work, love life, friends, family and myself. And I have superpowers.—**Juggler, 21**

Little Lulu. She's so cute *kasi eh*. And for a little kid, she can come up with smart and witty remarks with a hint of humor. I identify with her 'coz most people say I look like a kid *daw*. And I'd like to think I'm funny and intelligent in my own way.—**je-an a., 21**

It's Rugby and JR, because they're *makulit* and very hip!—**Peejay, Jags, 23**

Brosia of "Pugad Baboy," *kasi madalas, tatanga-tanga din ako*. Plus, I love teasing my dad, in the same way that Dagul is the constant target of Brosia's crazy sense of humor.—**Marla, "Gaano Kadalas Ang Minsan?," 18**

Mulan, because I'm independent, determined, athletic (but not exactly a warrior princess).—**Izzy Laluna, 21**

Little Bugs Bunny (when Bugs was a kid, I mean). I'm still childish in a way, and Bugs Bunny is my favorite cartoon character. He's bossy, funny, lazy, loves to eat and has all the excuses in the world—**<whiz_wills>, 19**

Calvin. We're both so young, so evil and so *pilosopo*.—**smashing orchid, 16**

Betty from the Flinstones, because I can rock your world!—**Funchum,16**

Ariel from "The Little Mermaid." I'd rather be on land than in water.—**Twister Fries, 16**

*E-mail the author at lisastrip@hotmail.com*

SINO ang TRU owner ni MUNING the DOG?

CLUES :

1. Roy lives in a purple house.
2. The one who likes dalandan owns Fru-fru the fusa.
3. Chong is allergic to grapes and was once rushed to the hospital by his crush (dyahe!).
4. The owner of Ninja the Turtle lives to the right of the guy who drinks Royal Tru-Grape for breakfast!
5. The guy who likes orange is duwag of Fru-fru the fusa and lives as far from him as possible.
6. The first house is orange.
7. Al lives to the left of the guy who can drink 3 Royal Tru-Dalandans in one sitting!
8. Chong lives in the last house.
9. The guy who lives in the green house loves to eat dalandan except the buto...(pait!)

Kuha nyo na? Dali! Email your answer to royalflavors@yahoo.com. First 10 to get it right gets a stupendific ROYAL TRU FRUITS barkada-pack!

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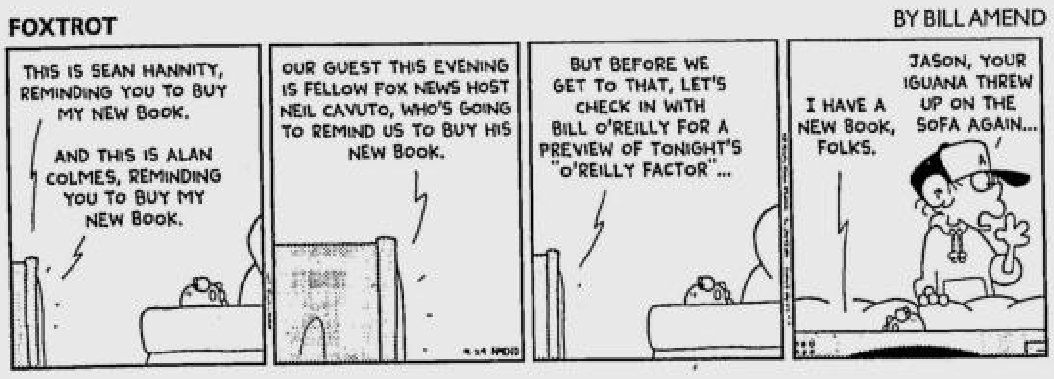
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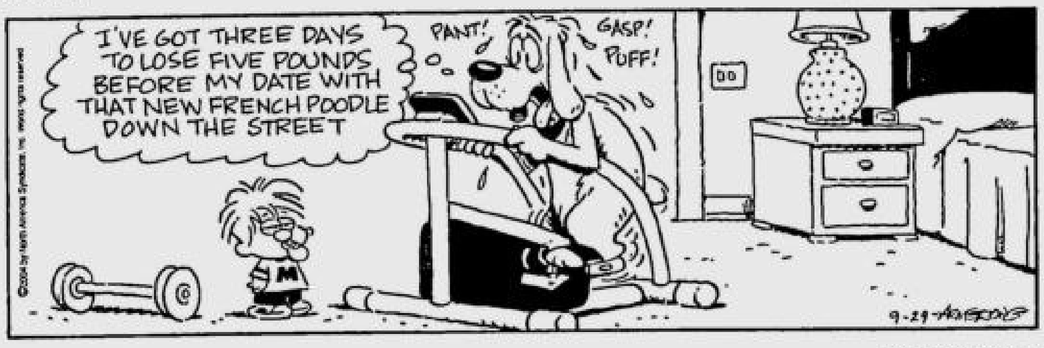
AND THIS IS ALAN COLMES, REMINDING YOU TO BUY MY NEW BOOK.
OUR GUEST THIS EVENING IS FELLOW FOX NEWS HOST NEIL CAVUTO, WHO'S GOING TO REMIND US TO BUY HIS NEW BOOK.
BUT BEFORE WE GET TO THAT, LET'S CHECK IN WITH BILL O'REILLY FOR A PREVIEW OF TONIGHT'S "O'REILLY FACTOR"...
I HAVE A NEW BOOK, FOLKS.
JASON, YOUR IGUANA THREW UP ON THE SOFA AGAIN...

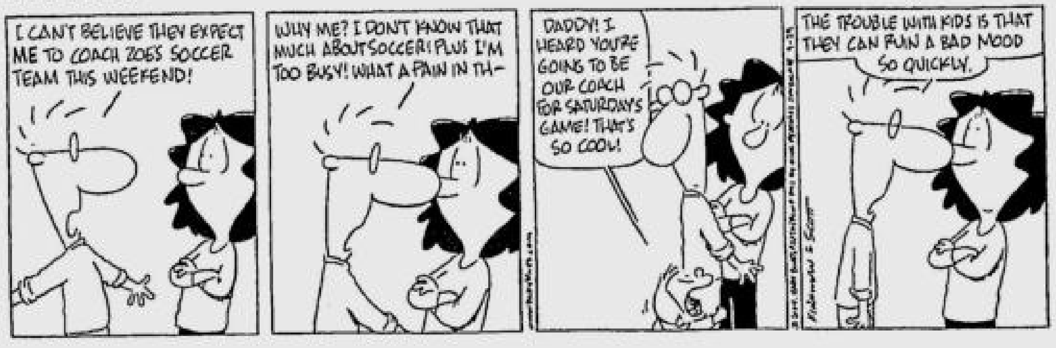
**MARVIN**

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'VE GOT THREE DAYS TO LOSE FIVE POUNDS BEFORE MY DATE WITH THAT NEW FRENCH POODLE DOWN THE STREET
PANT!
GASP!
PUFF!
9-29 ARMSTRONG

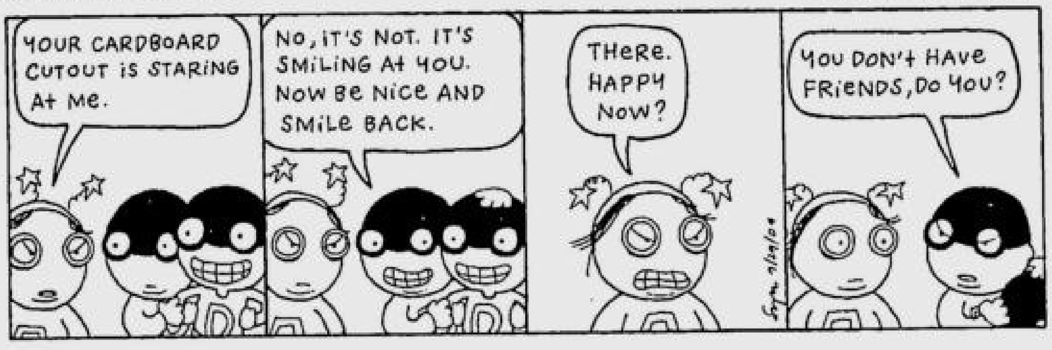
**BABY BLUES**

BY JERRY SCOTT


I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY EXPECT ME TO COACH ZOE'S SOCCER TEAM THIS WEEKEND!
WHY ME? I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT SOCCER! PLUS I'M TOO BUSY! WHAT A PAIN IN TH–
DADDY! I HEARD YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUR COACH FOR SATURDAY'S GAME! THAT'S SO COOL!
THE TROUBLE WITH KIDS IS THAT THEY CAN RUIN A BAD MOOD SO QUICKLY.

**ATOMO AND WEBOY**

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOUR CARDBOARD CUTOUT IS STARING AT ME.
NO, IT'S NOT. IT'S SMILING AT YOU. NOW BE NICE AND SMILE BACK.
THERE. HAPPY NOW?
YOU DON'T HAVE FRIENDS, DO YOU?

# HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're extremely capable. You conquer specific technical skills. You have strong organizational skills. You're a loyal supporter and an enormous asset to any group or organization, because you work so well with others. You're both intense and relaxed. Not many truly understand you. Get ready for the most powerful, and fortunate, years of your life.

**Birthdate of:** Emily Lloyd, actress; Jerry Lee Lewis, musician; Anita Ekberg, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Now you want to put your money where your mouth is. You feel someone is attacking you. Perhaps. Try to be part of the solution, not the problem.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You're determined to persuade others to do something at work. Even though you might be right, is it worth all this hassle? Isn't it better to keep the peace?

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You're full of wild, creative ideas today. Tackle any kind of artistic projects that you can. Discussions with children will be wonderfully imaginative.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Discussions with family members could become heated or angry today. This is because somebody is trying to convince someone of something. (Try to stay out of this one.)

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Your ability to convince, teach and influence others is uncanny today. That's because you put all of yourself into your communications now. (It's easy to sell an idea that sells itself.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** You've got great moneymaking ideas today! Trust your impulses. You might want to talk others into seeing things your way. (You'll be able to do this.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You feel intelligent, articulate and ready for anything today. Your mind is bright, alert and alive. That's why everything you say has added emphasis and enthusiasm!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** It's a good thing to listen to that still, small inner voice. You have some kind of urge that is dying to break free. If it's who you really are, let it out.

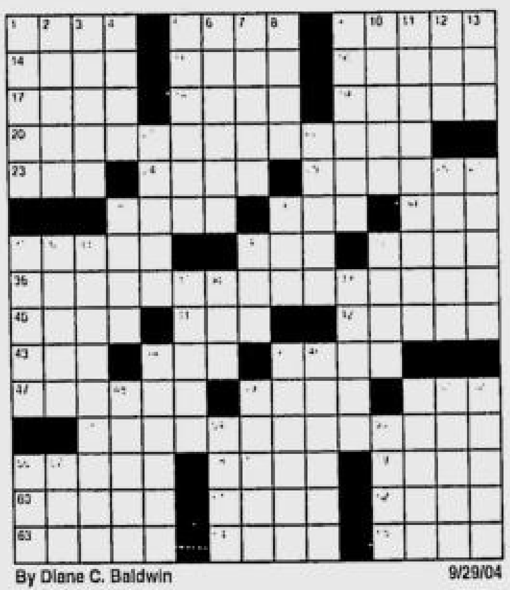
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** It's generally wisest to let others believe whatever they want to. However, if you have to convince a friend of something today, you'll do it!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** This is a great day to talk to bosses, authority figures, teachers and friends. You speak with such confidence and assurance that everybody agrees with you!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Your ability to do research is wonderful today. You will dig deep for any answers that you seek. Take care of insurance matters and things having to do with joint property.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Don't argue with others today. You will arouse opposition if you do so. And resist the urge to try to persuade others to agree with you. Just stay mellow, if you can.

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/29/04

**ACROSS**
1 Try out
5 Blackthorn
9 Diameter halves
14 Machu Picchu honcho
15 Get word
16 Right to the penny
17 Quick step
18 Hostile to
19 Cunning trickery
20 Gets tough
23 Architectural add-on
24 Singer Redding
25 Warship assemblage
28 Twofold
29 Extend an invitation to
30 Place for three men?
31 Beloved of Daphnis
34 Bro's sibling
35 Triangle ratio
36 Bawls out
40 Aware of
41 Horse's morsel
42 Wall climbers
43 Aesop's industrious insect
44 See from afar
45 Word breaker
47 Taiwan capital
49 Polly, to Tom Sawyer
50 Call for help
53 Drives hard
56 "The Waste Land" poet
58 Be sore
59 Serious flaw
60 Good judgment
61 Stadium level
62 Uniform
63 Beeped
64 Irish Republic
65 Social misfit

**DOWN**
1 Proof of ownership
2 Sign up: var
3 Gloomy frown
4 London gallery
5 Cascade Range mount
6 Leguminous plant
7 Expletives
8 One of HOMES
9 Make over
10 Fundamental truth
11 Spotted dog
12 Rink surface
13 __ now or never!
21 Rakes
22 Low-voiced singers
26 Ninny
27 Aids in crime
28 Extinct bird
29 Broadcast
31 Zagreb resident
32 Coloring agent
33 Trellis pattern
34 TV unit
35 Hubbub
37 Subject matter
38 Horse chow
39 Built like Humpty Dumpty
44 In a chair
45 Religious reformer Martin
46 "Where are you?" reply
48 Ordinary writing
49 Computer language std.
50 Push roughly
51 Tanker
52 Go through an allowance
54 Writer Wilhelm
55 ___ will you ever learn?
56 6th sense
57 Pastoral spot

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | L | S | A | ■ | A | B | I | E | ■ | S | L | U | R |
| A | R | O | A | R | ■ | J | I | N | X | ■ | L | A | C | E |
| G | I | A | N | T | P | A | N | D | A | ■ | E | R | L | E |
| S | A | N | D | L | E | R | ■ | I | L | L | E | G | A | L |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | E | D | ■ | D | A | T | I | V | E | ■ | ■ |
| N | A | G | A | S | A | K | I | ■ | S | E | I | S | M | S |
| E | R | P | ■ | S | L | O | P | E | ■ | I | N | C | U | T |
| P | O | E | T | ■ | S | O | L | A | R | ■ | G | A | T | E |
| A | M | A | H | S | ■ | K | O | R | E | A | ■ | L | E | W |
| L | A | T | E | N | S | ■ | I | N | S | I | D | E | R | S |
| ■ | ■ | L | O | A | M | E | D | ■ | O | R | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| H | E | A | R | G | U | E | ■ | A | L | L | E | R | G | Y |
| E | L | K | E | ■ | G | R | A | N | D | O | P | E | R | A |
| S | E | E | M | ■ | L | I | F | T | ■ | C | E | D | E | R |
| P | A | S | S | ■ | Y | E | T | I | ■ | K | N | O | W | N |

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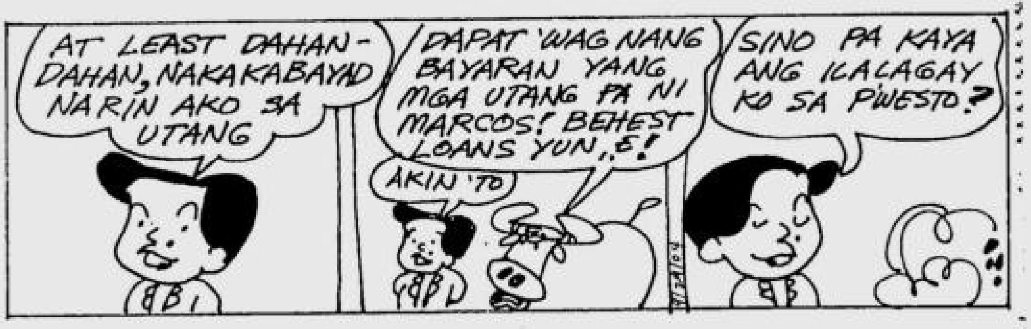
9/29/04

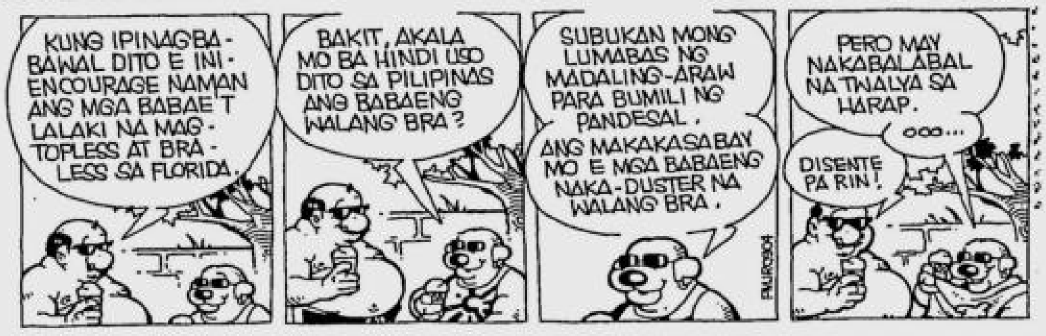
**A. LIPIN**

BY JESS ABRERA


AT LEAST DAHAN-DAHAN, NAKAKABAYAD NA RIN AKO SA UTANG
DAPAT 'WAG NANG BAYARAN YANG MGA UTANG PA NI MARCOS! BEHEST LOANS YUN, E!
AKIN 'TO
SINO PA KAYA ANG KAKALAGAY KO SA PWESTO?

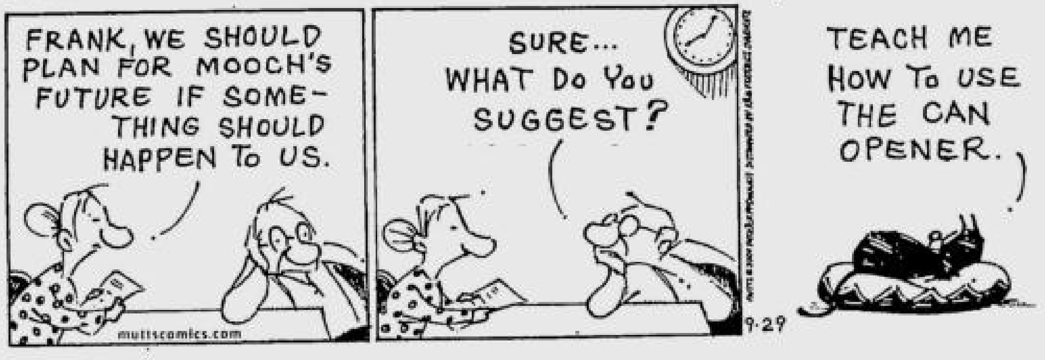
**PUGAD BABOY**

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUNG IPINAGBABAWAL DITO E INI-ENCOURAGE NAMAN ANG MGA BABAE'T LALAKI NA MAG-TOPLESS AT BRA-LESS SA FLORIDA.
BAKIT, AKALA MO BA HINDI USO DITO SA PILIPINAS ANG BABAENG WALANG BRA?
SUBUKAN MONG LUMABAS NG MADALING-ARAW PARA BUMILI NG PANDESAL.
ANG MAKAKASABAY MO E MGA BABAENG NAKA-DUSTER NA WALANG BRA.
PERO MAY NAKABALABAL NA TWALYA SA HARAP.
OOO...
DISENTE PA RIN!
PMJR0904

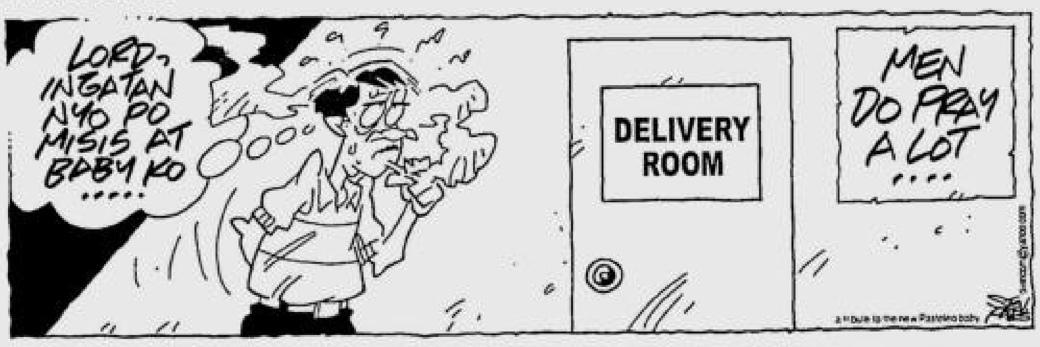
**MUTTS**

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FRANK, WE SHOULD PLAN FOR MOOCH'S FUTURE IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO US.
SURE... WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
TEACH ME HOW TO USE THE CAN OPENER.
muttscomics.com
9·29

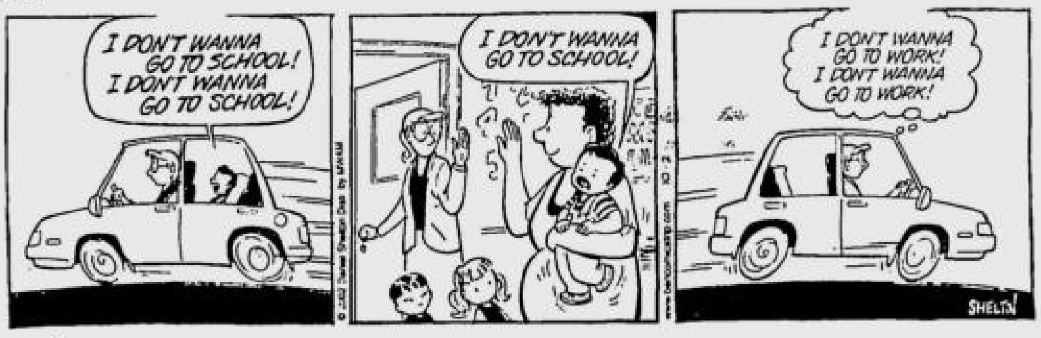
**DIVINE COMEDY**

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LORD, INGATAN NYO PO MISIS AT BABY KO .....
DELIVERY ROOM
MEN DO PRAY A LOT ....
a tribute to the new Pabalinas baby

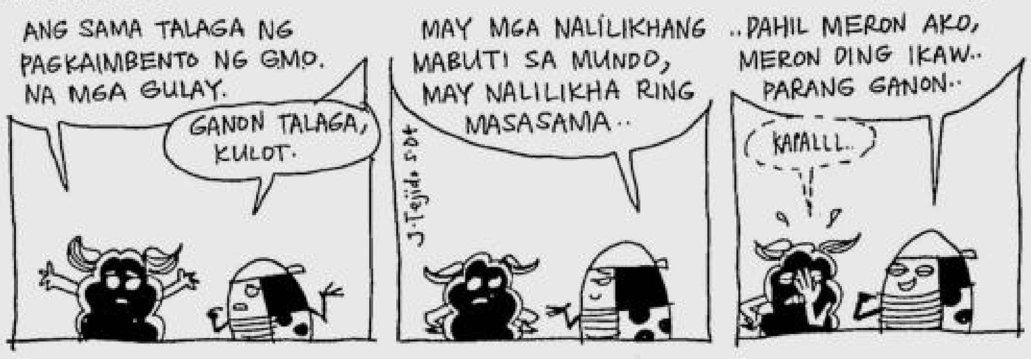
**BEN**

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I DON'T WANNA GO TO SCHOOL! I DON'T WANNA GO TO SCHOOL!
I DON'T WANNA GO TO SCHOOL!
I DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK! I DON'T WANNA GO TO WORK!
SHELTON

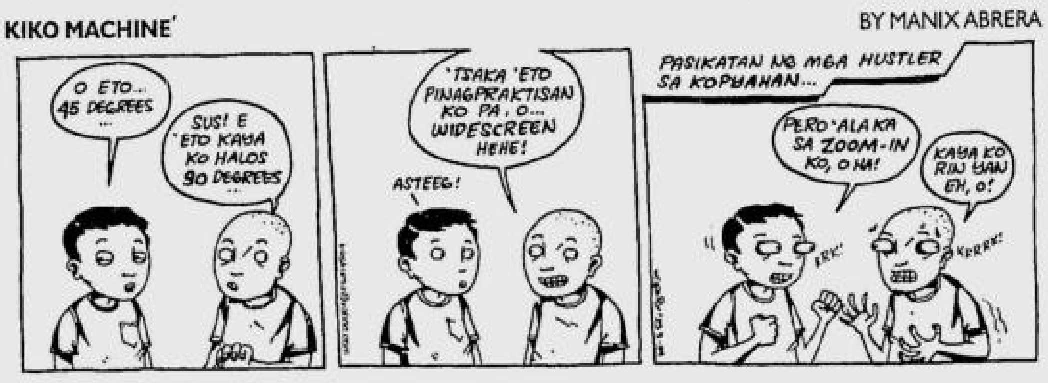
**MIKROKOSMOS**

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SAMA TALAGA NG PAGKAIMBENTO NG GMO. NA MGA GULAY.
GANON TALAGA, KULOT.
MAY MGA NALILIKHANG MABUTI SA MUNDO, MAY NALILIKHA RING MASASAMA..
..PAHIL MERON AKO, MERON DING IKAW.. PARANG GANON..
KAPALLL..
J. Tejido 5.04

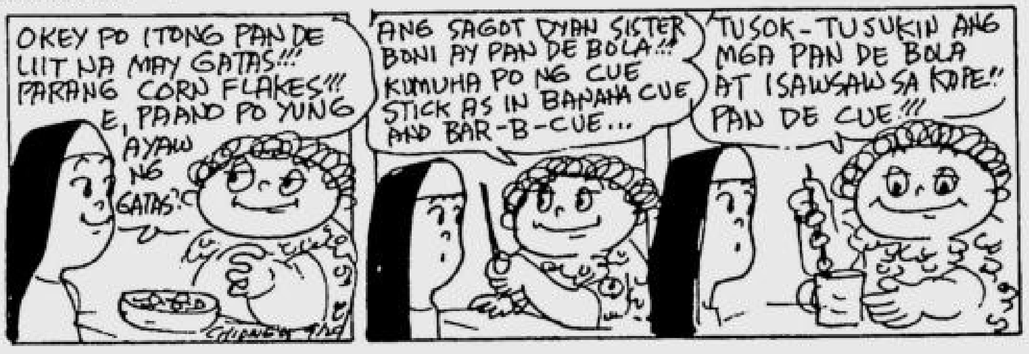
**KIKO MACHINE'**

BY MANIX ABRERA


O ETO... 45 DEGREES ...
SUS! E 'ETO KAYA KO HALOS 90 DEGREES ...
'TSAKA 'ETO PINAGPRAKTISAN KO PA, O... WIDESCREEN HEHE!
ASTEEG!
PASIKATAN NG MGA HUSTLER SA KOPYAHAN...
PERO 'ALA KA SA ZOOM-IN KO, O HA!
KAYA KO RIN YAN EH, O!
ERK!
KERRK!

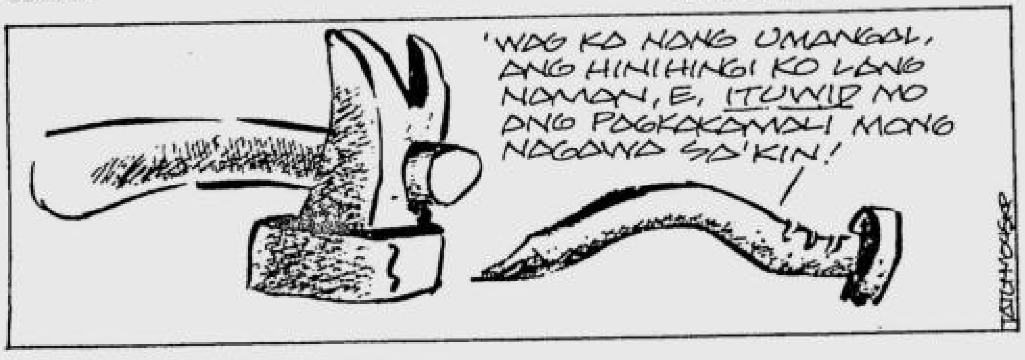
**LOVEKNOTS**

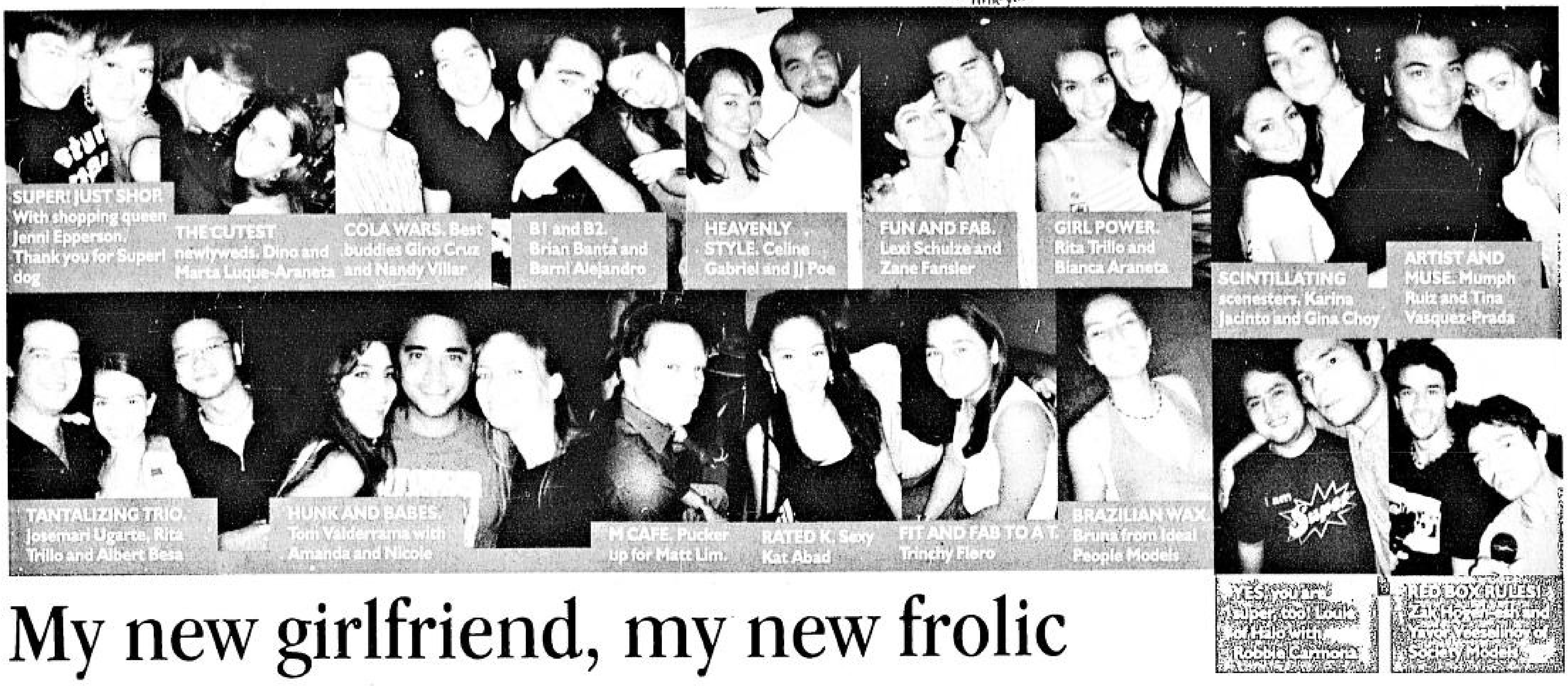
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


OKEY PO ITONG PAN DE LIIT NA MAY GATAS!!! PARANG CORN FLAKES!!! E, PAANO PO YUNG AYAW NG GATAS?
ANG SAGOT DYAN SISTER BONI AY PAN DE BOLA!! KUMUHA PO NG CUE STICK AS IN BANANA CUE AND BAR-B-CUE...
TUSOK-TUSUKIN ANG MGA PAN DE BOLA AT ISAWSAW SA KAPE!! PAN DE CUE!!!
CHIONGLO 9/04

**TULDOK**

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KA NANG UMANGAL, ANG HINIHINGI KO LANG NAMAN, E, ITUWID MO ANG PAGKAKAMALI MONG NAGAWA SA'KIN!
TATUMOSKAR



**SUPER! JUST SHOP.** With shopping queen Jenni Epperson. Thank you for Super! dog

**THE CUTEST** newlyweds, Dino and Marta Luque-Araneta

**COLA WARS.** Best buddies Gino Cruz and Nandy Villar

**B1 and B2.** Brian Banta and Barni Alejandro

**HEAVENLY STYLE.** Celine Gabriel and JJ Poe

**FUN AND FAB.** Lexi Schulze and Zane Fansler

**GIRL POWER.** Rita Trillo and Bianca Araneta

**SCINTILLATING** scenesters, Karina Jacinto and Gina Choy

**ARTIST AND MUSE.** Mumph Ruiz and Tina Vasquez-Prada

**TANTALIZING TRIO.** Josemari Ugarte, Rita Trillo and Albert Besa

**HUNK AND BABES.** Tom Valderrama with Amanda and Nicole

**M CAFE.** Pucker up for Matt Lim.

**RATED K.** Sexy Kat Abad

**FIT AND FAB TO A T.** Trinchy Fiero

**BRAZILIAN WAX.** Bruna from Ideal People Models

**YES** [illegible] Robbie Carmona

**RED BOX RULES!** [illegible]

# My new girlfriend, my new frolic

From page E4

Yup, they were all over—and not just in the usual hangouts. If there's one thing the scene's partyphiles crave for, it's unpredictability. Spontaneity is another. Those who understand this principle fully are able to enjoy the moment even more.

At the birthday party of Pepsi babe **Amanda Griffin** at One McKinley of The Fort, beautiful people wished the model, host, VJ, entrepreneur and endorser another full year of surprises.

It was such a pleasant evening filled with eye candy, as hip, young Manila—or should I say, hip, young Tali—had a mini-reunion because of their muse's celebration. This is as close as Manila can get to having a Hamptons set. Hmm, so who's their counterpart of **Lizzie Grubman**?

The first people that I spotted were **Bianca Zobel** (Amanda's partner in Fatally Femme, their events group) and **David Jacob** (back this weekend from Hong Kong)—they looked so sweet—I love it! I always get mushy when I see friends happy with their flames.

## Dive, sing, dance

Speaking about flames, I am extremely excited for **Gutsy Tuason**'s new book of underwater photography. Amanda and her buddy, **Celine Gabriel** (who was wearing a cute and quirky **Louie Claparols**), treated me to an evening of photo projections of the book. I think I'm gonna get into diving soon. Scuba gear shopping sounds exciting.

I was deeply immersed in conversation about the **Jericho Rosales** Pepsi commercial when **Bianca Araneta** arrived and snatched me to go to our favorite place, Red Box. We got the biggest room for an all-night concert—just the two of us! "Night of the Champions," beat that!

Later, the people who were at Paseo Uno (Mandarin's latest night spot—they just launched their Lounge night with DJ **Elian Habayeb**, every Saturday) joined us, and it became a free-for-all sing-along session.

By 5 a.m., I didn't want to see the sun (besides, Red Box closes at 3 a.m.), so we met up with the Brazilian models at Peligro. Later, I brought everyone (our delegation consisted of **Bruna** from Brazil, **Yavor** from Bulgaria and **Zak** from Australia—and me as Philippine party tourism ambassador) to Halo!

This club is becoming the after-after hours spot this side of town. The music is really pumpin', and the energy, high. To the owners (**Robbie Carmona** is one of them) of Halo, keep it up, guys.

## Sunday session

I ended my week waking up in time to watch a movie at the Shangri-La Cineplex, my new favorite cinema. I realized I haven't visited this side of the world in a long time (considering I live five minutes away), so I decided to hop over and explore.

Before watching the movie, I went on my Sunday "North Beach Diet" (all carbs, sweets and anything sinful) at Gloria Maris. After pigging out, I went over to the cinema complex (Cineplex, as they call it) and totally got blown away by the film, "Bourne Supremacy."

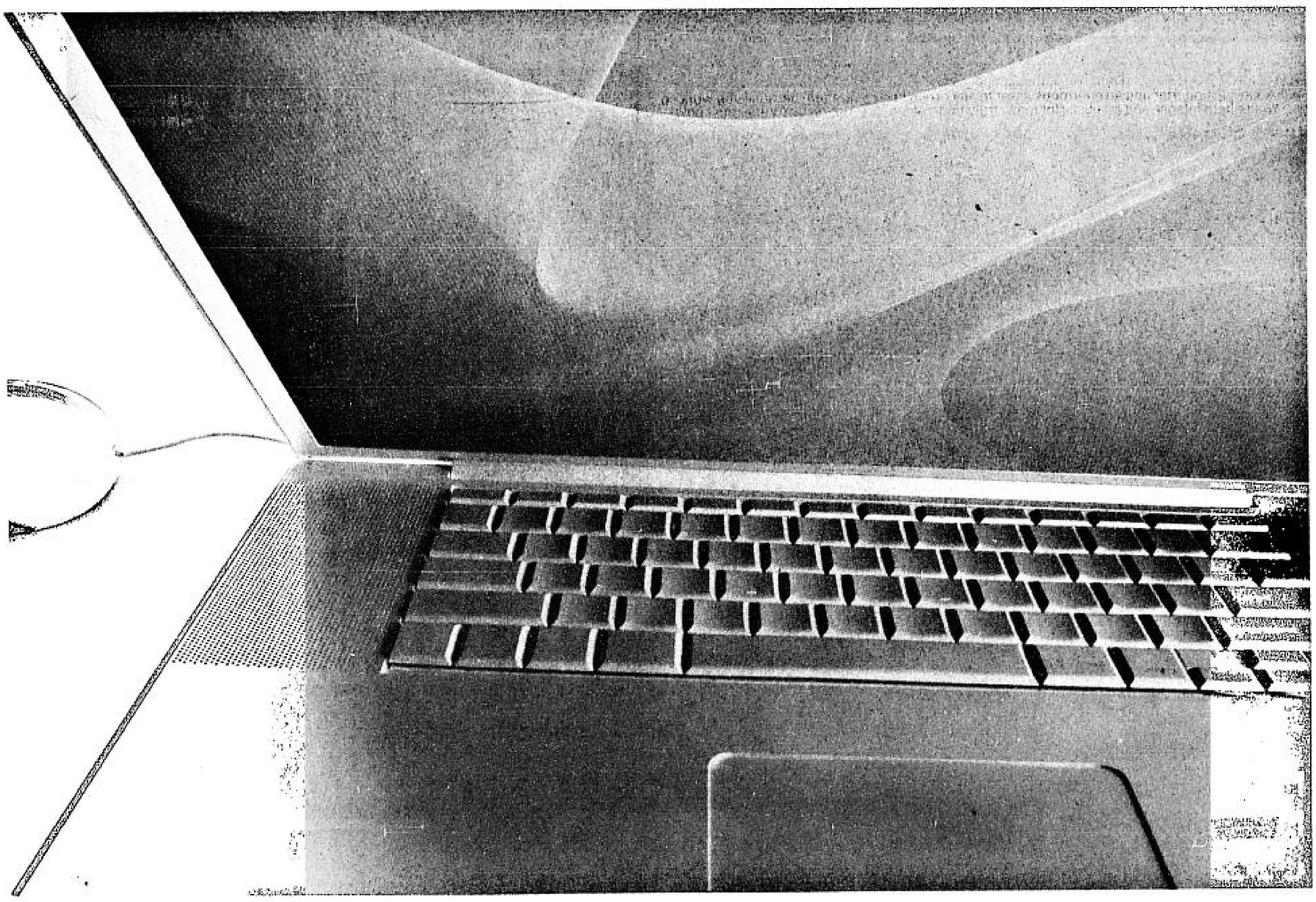
I love watching in this cinema because no one else is there—it feels like you own the whole theater. The seats are so comfortable, I felt like bouncing up and down like a kid with a new bed. I think I'll be coming back more and more to this side of the world.

But before I get lost inside the movie and party world, I decided to go straight home—my girlfriend is waiting for me.

## Our condolences

On another note, the scene mourns the passing of one of its dearest brothers, **Joselu Villanueva**, who was stabbed to death by an unknown man inside the bus on his way home to Malate.

Joselu, wherever you are, your family and friends will miss you.



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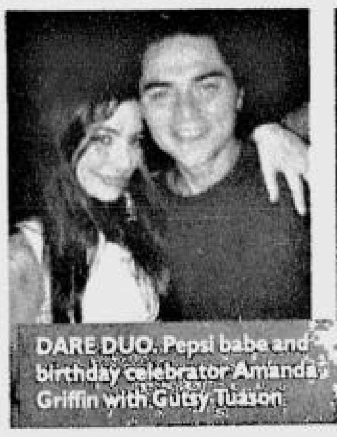
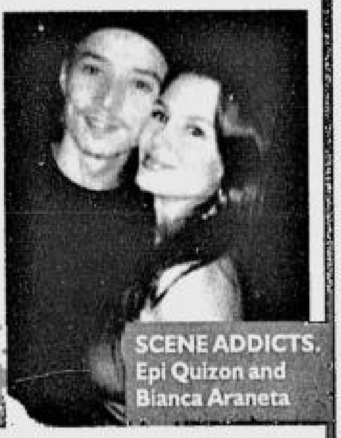


**DARE DUO.** Pepsi babe and birthday celebrator Amanda Griffin with Gutsy Tuason



**SCENE ADDICTS.** Epi Quizon and Bianca Araneta

# My new girlfriend, my new frolic

Yapparazzi!

*Tim Yap*

I HAVE a new girlfriend! I just met her yesterday. Upon seeing her, I lit up and I gave her a warm hug. Her tan skin rubbed against my pale complexion. Immediately, there was great rapport between us.

She runs fast and is as playful as I am (and that's dangerous!). I think I am going to fall deeply in love with her.

I have an inkling that she likes parties and fashion, too. But I don't know that yet. We are still in the getting-to-know-you stage.

I am just too happy that after two long years of being single, I now have someone to devote all that love, care and attention that overflows in me. I am, after all, a true-blue hopeless romantic, above anything else. Yes, finally the Lord has answered my prayers now that **Super! dog** has arrived in my life.

It has been two months of waiting ever since **Blitz**, the Jack Russell of **Tom** and **Jenni Epperson**, gave birth. My Just Shop best buddy Jenni, who has always known about my lovesick condition, promised me the best looking of the lot.

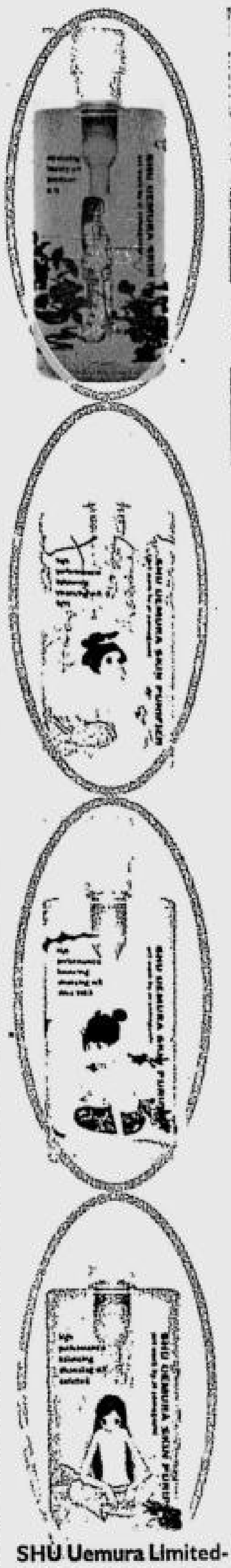
Now, after more than six weeks of breastfeeding, Super! dog has finally found a new partner in growth in super ol' me!

Anyone is never too ready for parenting, but I pray that I will have all the patience and love in this world to make sure Super! dog grow up to be a super bitch—so watch out for her. Yap! Yap!

## Wet and wild

The full moon over the weekend brought out the city's nocturnal partyphiles and made them howl for more fun and fab happenings in the city.

MY NEW/ E3



**SHU Uemura Limited-Edition Cleansing Oils**

**CENTEX** children with spokesperson Kitkat Zobel

**COLLABORATORS** Shu Uemura and Ai Yamaguchi

# Beauty with a conscience

**By Bianca Consunji**
*2bU! Correspondent*

THE REALM of beauty hardly overlaps with charity, save for a few notable causes. Because of this, beauty has always been perceived as a shallow and self-centered domain. After all, what good does a bottle of expensive perfume do for a starving family in the slums?

Well, cosmetics giant Shu Uemura is changing all that.

Many know the brand as a high-end cosmetic must-have patronized by celebrities and people who simply have a penchant for quality skincare and makeup. The facial cleansing oil, favored by models and makeup artists (for its ability to remove any kind of makeup), is the consistent bestseller at the Shu counters.

However, the company has chosen to make beauty more than skin-deep with its latest project.

In a worldwide effort to support charity organizations that sponsor children and the arts, Shu Uemura and Ai Yamaguchi have collaborated to produce the Limited-Edition Cleansing Oils, the bottles of which are decorated with drawings of young girls, each representing a different type of cleansing oil.

Yamaguchi, a young artist whose work combines classical elements from the Edo period with contemporary Japanese animation, designed the bottles exclusively for the project.

## Quality education

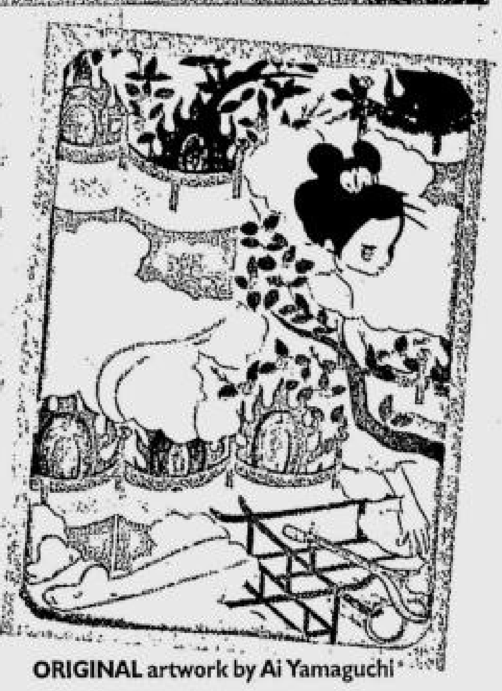
This is where the Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) comes in.

> Shu Uemura's latest product offers not only great skincare possibilities but also the chance to help a worthy cause.

Centex, created by the Ayala Foundation to provide quality education to underprivileged children, is the chosen beneficiary of Shu Uemura Philippines.

Aside from classrooms, computer labs, and multimedia rooms, the foundation shoulders the food, textbooks, uniforms, and a transportation subsidy for the children, as well as livelihood training seminars and workshops for their parents.

The center, which currently has 1,000 children in its fold, aims to give more than just the basic curriculum of math, science and language. It believes children must also be exposed to art, thus the tie-up with Shu Uemura. All proceeds from the sales of the Limited-Edition Cleansing Oils will go to the art program for kids that Centex is setting up.



**ORIGINAL** artwork by Ai Yamaguchi

When the cleansing oils are launched on Oct. 6, a silent auction of works by Ai Yamaguchi and Shu Uemura, as well as by Mauro Malang, Romulo Galicano and Anita Magsaysay-Ho, will be held at the Ayala Museum.

Again, all proceeds of the auction will go to Centex. Buyers will end up not only owning valuable pieces of art, but will also contribute to a worthy cause.

If you'd rather not bid on paintings, then go and buy a bottle or two of the cleansing oils. This way, you get effective skincare and the chance to help indigent kids in one blow.

*Email the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com*

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new ○ hershey's chocolate ○ marshmallow ○ graham crackers
SO GOOD, YOU'LL WANT
New! HERSHEY'S S'mores

Also available at DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

PANA
TRUTH IN
ADVERTISING

# PANA Celebrates 46th Anniversary

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THE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers, a non-profit, non-stock organization, was established in 1958 when some national advertisers got together to discuss common problems and shortcomings of local advertising practice and the need for a body that would protect the interests of the national advertisers.

**PANA is founded on four basic principles:**

1. The belief that advertising is an essential factor in marketing of goods and services and, consequentially, is an important factor in the economic life of the country;
2. The belief that the interests of consumers should be the primary concern of advertisers and in the case of conflict, the interest of the consumer should prevail;
3. The belief that public confidence in advertising and advertised goods and services should be promoted, and therefore any practices that tend to undermine the confidence should be prevented or corrected.
4. The belief in the upliftment of the standards and practices of advertising

Formed by advertisers for advertisers, PANA is the only organization in the country that unites the users of advertising. Its member companies comprise every major industry in the country. These companies represent a combined advertising expenditure estimated to exceed 85 percent of all national advertising in major media.

The first attempt after the war to organize those in advertising came with the founding of the old Advertising Club, which was conceived in 1947 and organized a year later. The membership in the Advertising Club was composed of advertisers, media representatives, agency people, and others in related fields. The Advertising Club, because of the diverse interests of its members, and because it was more of a social club than a professional organization, was dissolved in 1951.

It was not until 1956, when Robert Hinchman Jr arrived in the Philippines as advertising manager of Caltex, that he and Anacleto del Rosario took an active interest in getting advertising practitioners to form an organization patterned after the US Association of National Advertisers. Their efforts resulted in an organizational meeting held on Oct 16, 1957 at the Old Manila Overseas Press Club on Dewey Boulevard near the American Embassy. The meeting, attended by 45 representatives from various businesses, established the urgency of organizing the PANA.

The organization of PANA was carried out by a steering committee, later on called the organizational committee composed of Anacleto T. del Rosario of Del Rosario Bros Inc, Robert Hinchman Jr of Caltex (Philippines), Inc; Jesus T. Tanchanco of United Drug Co; Carl Van Hoven of Meralco; HD Brown of Colgate-Palmolive Philippines; JK Lowry Jr of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co, CW Newmann of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co; R. Pertierra of Williams Equipment; Gerardo Roces of Philippine Air Lines; Nestor Trapaga of Franklin Baker Co of the Philippines; M. Vangelle of Eternit Corporation; JD Janzon of Insular Life-FGU Insurance.

On Jan 30, 1958, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers was born in a general meeting of representatives from 42 companies which elected the association's 11-member board of Directors.

> The only organization
> in the country that unites the users
> of advertising

## *The New Logo*

PANA
TRUTH IN
ADVERTISING

AN EYE, a man with outstretched arms, and a protective canopy - a fluid interaction of elements to convey PANA's commitment to public service and perceptiveness to Truth in Advertising, the consuming public which PANA seeks to serve, and the major mass media.

The single color reinforces the concepts of truth and service, unity of the organization, and exudes an ever focused forward thrust. Devoid of the traditional rectangular border, the overall logo illustrates the dynamic spirit of the Association, its ability to evolve, and its steady pursuit for excellence.

PLDT
FAST-PHONE DELIVERY
Call 171 or visit the nearest PLDT Office

Get a PLDT phone in 5 days
or you get one month service free*!

Sulit sa telebabad.
And your highway to the internet.
Kaya mag-PLDT ka na!

Up to 57% pa ang matitipid sa installation fees,
kaya now is the best time to subscribe to PLDT.

- Post-paid Residential P1,200 (Save P799 or 40%)
- Post-paid Business P1,500 (Save P2,000 or 57%)

Areas where PLDT lines are available:

METRO MANILA

ANGONO
ANTIPOLO
BINANGONAN
CAINTA
MORONG
TAYTAY
TANAY
DANSALAN
MANDALUYONG
ORTIGAS
MARIKINA
NORTH MARIKINA
NEW PASIG
PASIG
BALARA
CALOOCAN
MALABON
GRACE PARK
SOUTH TRIANGLE
CAMARIN
FAIRVIEW
NOVALICHES
CUBAO
QUEZON CITY
VALENZUELA
ALABANG
MUNTINLUPA
JUPITER
LAS PIñAS
PAMPLONA
MAKATI
NORTH PARAñAQUE
SOUTH TAGUIG
SOUTH PARAñAQUE
PASAY
TAMBO
SAN PEDRO
BINONDO
QUIAPO
MALATE
PACO
STA MESA
SAMPALOC
TONDO

LUZON

BULACAN
BALIUAG
BULACAN
GUIGUINTO
HAGONOY
MALOLOS
PLARIDEL
SAN MIGUEL
NUEVA ECIJA
APARRI
CABANATUAN
CAUAYAN
ECHAGUE
GAPAN
ILAGAN
MUÑOZ
TUGUEGARAO
PANGASINAN
BINMALEY
DAGUPAN
MANAOAG
PAMPANGA
BALANGA
BEPZA
FLORIDA BLANCA
GUAGUA
LUBAO
MEXICO
ORION
SAN FERNANDO,
PAMPANGA
SAN NARCISO
ILOCOS
LAOAG
SAN FERNANDO,
LA UNION
VIGAN
LA TRINIDAD
BAGUIO
TARLAC
CAPAS
CAMILING
CONCEPCION
LUISITA,
INDUSTRIAL PARK
PANIQUI
TARLAC
VICTORIA
QUEZON
MAUBAN
LUCENA
TAYABAS
LAGUNA
PAETE
PILA
SAN PABLO
STA. CRUZ
CALAUAN
LILIW
CALAMBA
CABUYAO
CANLUBANG
LOS BAÑOS
LAGUNA, INTERNATIONAL
INDUSTRIAL PARK
LISPP
LAGUNA TECHNO PARK
STA. ROSA
BINAKAYAN
CARMONA
CEPZA
CAVITE
DASMARIÑAS
INDANG
IMUS
JAVALERA
MOLINO
NAIC
ROSARIO
SILANG
TAGAYTAY
TRECE MARTIREZ
ZAPOTE
BATANGAS
ALITAGTAG
BAUAN
BATANGAS
LIPA
SAN JOSE
TANAUAN
TALISAY

VISAYAS

BACOLOD
BATA
BAYAWAN
ESCALANTE
KABANKALAN
LA CASTELLANA
MANSILINGAN
MANAPLA
NEW SAGAY
SILAY
TANJAY
TANGUB
ILOILO
ALIMODIAN
BANATE
DINGLE
ESTANCIA
LA PAZ
MAMBUSAO
MANDURRIAO
NUMANCIA
PONTEVEDRA
ROXAS
SARA
CEBU
MACTAN
MANDAUE
NORTH CEBU
JONES
SOUTH CEBU
TALISAY

MINDANAO

DAVAO
BUHANGIN
MAA
BUNAWAN
CALINAN
MINTAL
MATINA
PANOBO
PANAKAN
SASA
TORIL
GENERAL SANTOS
COTABATO
DINAIG
ISULAN
PARANG
SULTAN KUDARAT
TACURONG
ZAMBOANGA
OROQUIETA
OZAMIS
TAGOLOAN

*Conditions apply.

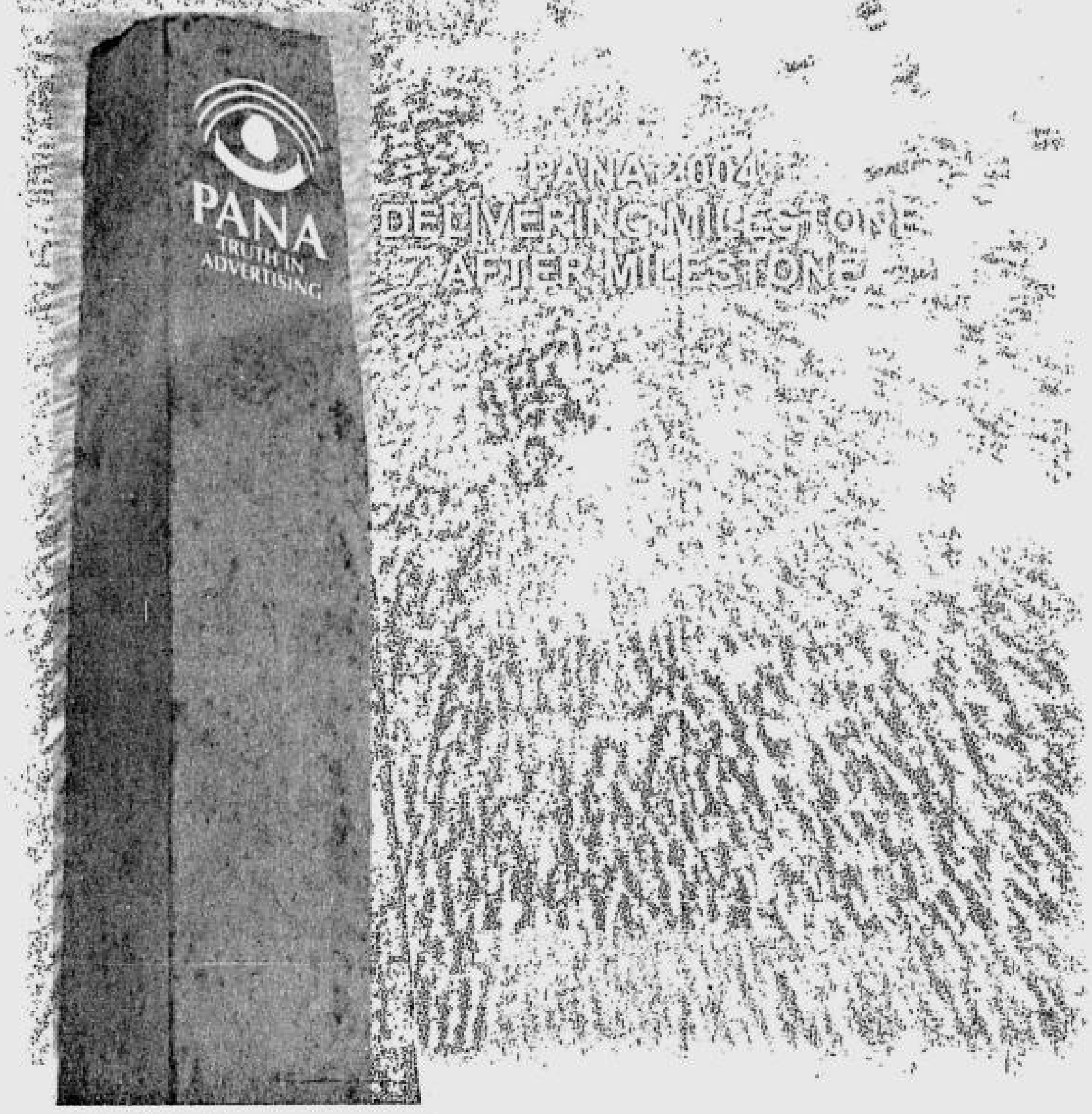
1. Promo is limited to new subscriptions and in areas where PLDT service is available. PLDT will confirm availability of lines to applicants. Promo period is from Sept 19-Dec 31, 2004 only.
2. If granted, one month free is on the 6th month. Subscriptions on this promotion have an 18-month lock-in period. A P1,900 pre-termination fee applies.
3. Subscriber's premises must have conduit wiring installed.
4. PLDT line cannot be installed if it passes through another property.
5. Subscriber or representative should be present during installation.
6. Other conditions apply. Call 171 or visit the nearest PLDT Business Office for inquiries.
7. See leaflets and posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4430, Series of 2004.
PLDT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A set of objectives formed. Directions set. Focus adjusted. Spots secured for mileposts. One mile at a time. One milestone after another.

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers celebrates 46 years of paving the way for major changes. Far-reaching. Moving and shaking the industry with an ability to harness its inherent strength. And be the leader that the Association is born to be.



# PANA 2004
# DELIVERING MILESTONE AFTER MILESTONE

PANA
TRUTH IN
ADVERTISING

**Laying the Groundwork**

For 2004, PANA made its presence felt with its line up of objectives, reverberating through the halls of Adboard and its eight other member associations.

**1) Industry Leadership**

- Members of the PANA 2004 Board who sit in the Adboard actively participate in all discussions.
- Held joint PANA-Adboard meetings to address industry issues like media clutter and media audience measurement.
- Supported Adboard's information campaign on the mechanics of self-regulation.
- Pushed for another research study to determine how consumers view advertising in general.
- Participated in the 39th International Advertising Association World Congress.

**2) Member's Benefits**

- Highly informative monthly GMM's (General Membership Meetings) became the venue for members to articulate their opinions for cases where a PANA position needs to be arrived at.
- Accomplished an Outreach program, the 1st in PANA's history, to go to the members and encourage them to actively participate in PANA activities.
- Conducted an ACRC (Advertising Content Regulation Committee) orientation for new members.
- Launched the PANA website: regularly refreshed with PANA Now, links to Adboard member-associations, calendar of activities, and a password-sensitive page where classified ads, forum, and downloadable materials during GMM's will be featured.
- Established an e-group to discuss current industry issues.
- A new and refurbished office located at the 2nd floor of Torre de Salcedo Bldg., Salcedo Street, Makati City.

**3) Advocacy**

- Revived the PANA Foundation. Its 1st project was to lead discussions towards clearing political ads prior to media placement. Two forums were successfully held.
- PANA's active involvement in the ACRC will ensure that truth in advertising will prevail.
- PANA's active support of Adboard's Araw Values Awards will also ensure that ads promoting Filipino values will be amply recognized.

PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING
Years

2004 PANA Officers and Board of Directors

**Raul S. Alvarez "Raul"**
President
PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANY

**Jones T. Campos**
Vice President
GLOBE TELECOM

**Digna D. Santos "Digs"**
Secretary
KIMBERLY-CLARK PHILIPPINES, INC.

**Roberto F. Banaag "Bobby"**
Treasurer
PLANTERS DEVELOPMENT BANK

**Ma. Belen M. Fernando "Blen"**
Auditor
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

**Ma. Elena Mendoza-Dayrit** "Mylene"
P.R.O.
GOLD'S GYM

**Cristina D. Esguerra "Tina"**
Director
AYALA LAND, INC.

**Patricia Go-Nisce "Pat"**
Director
JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS, INC.

**Edgardo G. Sunico "Ed"**
Director
UNILEVER PHILIPPINES, INC.

**Francisco D. Cada "Kiko"**
Director
ZEST-O CORP.

**Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, dba**
Executive Director
PANA

# The focal points of a 300-member organization

**• Collective strength**

The combined PANA membership of more than 300 companies, spending the equivalent of more than 85 percent of total national advertising expenditures gives the Association tremendous collective strength, and thereby a strong voice, within and outside the advertising industry. Such united strength can never be matched by any individual effort.

**• Self-Regulation**

PANA has always maintained that self-regulation is the best form of regulation for the industry as opposed to government controls. The Association has adopted the Code of Ethics, Rules and Regulation for Advertising and Sales Promotions of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and made its strict adoption a condition of membership.

**• Industry Spokesman**

As an organization, the Association speaks for and represents members at industry and government meetings and discussions where the interests of the national advertisers are involved.

**• Education and Training**

Through seminars, workshop and open forum discussions which the Association initiates or co-sponsors with other allied groups in the industry, PANA provides excellent opportunities for members to exchange experiences and ideas and to improve their advertising knowledge and level of professionalism.

**• Networking**

One of the most valuable benefits of PANA membership is personal contacts and fellowship which members are able to develop with their fellow members and between people in media and advertising agencies.

**• Government Liaison**

The Association generally opposes any types of controls that restrict or repress the rights and freedom of advertiser in government liaison.

# Defining moments, memorable milestones of PANA's 46 years

- Spearheaded the establishment of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and the Audit Council for print media. A former PANA president as the first elected chairman was instrumental in successfully steering the two organizations through the initial years.
- Resolved conflicts on ethical issues among member advertisers through its ethics committee. Was instrumental in the removal and/or revision of a number of controversial and objectionable ads.
- The first organization in the industry to adopt the International Code of Advertising Practice and to enforce such code among its members. Undertook truth-in-advertising campaign among its members.
- Represented advertisers' and advertising's interests before legislative and executive bodies regarding proposed measures and rules and regulations affecting advertising. Opposed a number of unfavorable proposed legislations and regulations, and at the same time assisted in formulation and drafting guidelines bearing on advertising, such as sales promotions rules being used by the Department of Trade & Industry.
- Participated and represented the advertisers in the drafting of the rules and regulations on advertising practice worked out by the government and the industry (for a period of one year of weekly meetings). The same rules have now been adopted as the Adboard code of ethics.
- Negotiated and worked out acceptable guidelines and standards of business relationships with other sectors and interests in the industry represented by 4A's (then APAA & Lapis), KBP, Primo, Asap, etc.
- Successfully opposed moves to increase agency commission.
- Represented advertisers' interests on such important issues as increase in media rates, protection period for rate announcement and other business practices affecting advertisers.
- Participated in drafting of existing guidelines for broadcast advertising.
- Sponsored scholarship programs and workshop/seminars/assisted educational institutions in the development of curriculum concerning advertising.
- Negotiated rate protection, preferential rates, and other concessions from media for PANA members advertisers
- The presence of PANA in itself has generally served as a deterrent against unreasonable media rate increases and practices.
- In April 1987, PANA supported the position taken by five of its member-companies withdrawing advertising support from TV "showbiz" talkshow. PANA's move for more wholesome programming was widely applauded by industry and consumer groups.

## *Specific Objectives for the Filipino*

### With Respect to Its Members

1. To enable the members of the Association to speak with one voice and act with one purpose on advertising matters
2. To make every effort to ensure that all advertising produced by its members is truthful, does not mislead, and is in good taste.
3. To assist anyone or more of the members on issues of general significance relevant to the advertising trade.
4. To encourage the study of the theory and practice of advertising and the improvement of its techniques; to serve as a center of information on advertising matters in cooperation with allied institutions or associations; and to facilitate contacts between advertisers to their mutual advantage.
5. Generally, to promote further and protect the mutual interests of the members.

### With Respect to Consumers and the Public at Large

To promote public confidence in advertising and advertised goods and services through the promotion of truth in advertising and by calling attention practices which tend to undermine that confidence.

### With Respect to the Educational Field

To help build a reservoir of good advertising talent in the Philippines through cooperation with the nation's schools, colleges and universities and other allied institutions or associations, and the holding of forums, workshops and seminars on advertising and the related arts and sciences.

### With Respect to Government

1. To support as may be deemed desirable any advertising movement in the national interest
2. To maintain that advertising is a legitimate business expense, an essential factor in the marketing services and foods and, consequentially, is an important factor in the economic life of the country. To make representations for beneficial legislations regarding advertising and against unfair legislations or unreasonable restrictions directed at advertising.

### With Respect to the Advertising Industry

1. To work constantly for fair cost in advertising and to further the adoption of ethical standards of practice in the business relations among advertising and cooperate with them for the benefit of advertising.

To maintain good relations with allied institutions or associations connected with advertising and cooperate with them for the benefit of advertising.

PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

ABOUT TIME SODAS WENT FRUIT.
ZEST-O
Made with real fruit juice
fruitZoda
ZEST-O
dalandan SODA
Made With Real Fruit Juice Caffeine Free
ZEST-O
Calamansi SODA
HONEY

# Starting October 1, Sun Cellular will let you call and text all you want, Sun to Sun*, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## 24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED

## Hurry and be one of the first new subscribers to get it FREE!

*Local calls and texts only.

With Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited, you can call and text all you want Sun to Sun. For postpaid subscribers, just pay ₱250 a month on top of the Monthly Service Fee. For prepaid subscribers, load up 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited via call cards, e-pins or text - available in two load denominations: ₱100 valid for 10 days and ₱250 valid for 30 days. That's a small price to pay for the privilege of calling and texting from now to sawa. No more tipid texts. No more tipid calls.

₱100
₱250
24/7
CALL & TEXT
UNLIMITED
sun

Subscribe from October 1 to 31, 2004 and be one of the first new subscribers to enjoy up to 30 days of free trial. New postpaid subscribers' free 30-day trial period starts on the 1st day of their billing cycle. New prepaid subscribers' free 15-day trial period starts 24 hours after their first call or text. Active Sun Cellular postpaid and prepaid subscribers as of September 30, 2004, will also enjoy the same free trial periods.

**Now with better network, better value.**

For more information, visit www.suncellular.com.ph. You may also call the Sun Cellular Hotline 395-8000 or dial 200 using your Sun Cellular phone.

sun CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4756 Series of 2004

# Credit Card Supplement

## Fun facts about your 'plastic money'

THAT thin plastic card that has saved your skin countless times in many shopping sorties (but at a price, mind you) has its own story to tell, too. Here are some interesting facts you might find useful in striking up a conversation when you're waiting for that pretty, or handsome, sales attendant to verify your credit card in your next purchase. Here's hoping you haven't maxed your credit, by then.

- According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the use of credit cards originated in the United States during the 1920s, when individual companies, such as hotel chains and oil companies, began issuing them to customers for purchases made at those businesses. This use increased significantly after World War II.
- The first universal credit card—one that could be used at a variety of stores and businesses—was introduced by Diners Club Inc in 1950. American Express followed suit in 1958.
- Under the bank credit-card system, where the bank credits the account of the merchant as sales slips are received (this means merchants are paid quickly), the first national bank plan was BankAmericard, which was started on a statewide basis in 1959 by the Bank of America in California. This system was licensed in other states starting in 1966, and was renamed Visa in 1976. Soon after, MasterCard followed (which was originally called Master Charge).
- Although phone companies, gas companies and department stores have their own numbering systems, the ANSI Standard X4.13-1983 is the system used by most credit-card systems.
- The stripe on the back of a credit card is a magnetic stripe, often called a magstripe. The magstripe is made up of tiny iron-based magnetic particles in a plastic-like film. Each particle is really a tiny bar magnet about 20-millionths of an inch long. The magstripe can be "written" because the tiny bar magnets can be magnetized in either a north or south pole direction. The magstripe on the back of the card is very similar to a piece of cassette tape.
- There are basically three types of credit cards: Bank cards, issued by banks (for example, Visa, MasterCard and Discover Card); Travel and entertainment (T&E) cards, such as American Express and Diners Club; and House cards that are good only in one chain of stores. *(Information compiled from howstuffworks.com)*

MA SAYANG ANG MILES...

YOUR TRIPS TO THE GROCERY CAN EARN YOU FREE TRIPS.

Earn one Mile for every P45 you charge.

You can also earn double or triple the Miles at select establishments.

And with just 3,000 Miles, you can already fly for free to a local destination.

Fly free and easy with Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC. Apply for one today.

MABUHAY MILES VISA

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

[illegible]

NO FEES TO PAY WHEN YOU APPLY FOR A MABUHAY MILES VISA FROM 3 SEPTEMBER - 30 NOVEMBER 2004.

Carry the credit card that lets you fly free for as little as 3,000 Miles. You can earn Miles on all your purchases – and double or triple the Miles in select stores. With Mabuhay Miles Visa, you're sure to fly for free!

3 EASY WAYS TO GET A MABUHAY MILES VISA!

JUST CALL!

751-8000 (METRO MANILA)
(032) 415-9888 (CEBU)
(082) 300-2228 (DAVAO)

Simply call the dedicated hotline. An HSBC Customer Service Representative will receive your call and process your application.

JUST TEXT!

Text HSBC<space>Full Name <space>Area Code+Phone Number<space>Email Address

To 2327 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers

To 700-HSBC(4722) for Smart and Talk n' Text subscribers

HSBC Catherine Perez
(632)8121141
cperez@yahoo.com

Send one text message. Our HSBC Customer Service Representative will call you soon after to facilitate your application.

JUST LOG ON!

www.hsbc.com.ph

Visit the website and apply online.

Apply for a Mabuhay Miles Visa today – and enjoy the reward you could only dream about with other credit cards. Not only is it easy to apply; it's absolutely FREE!

*Ikaw rin...sayang ang Miles!*

Philippine Airlines Mabuhay MILES

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4488. Series of 2004.

# Travel Payment Cards bring maximum flexibility and superior control

**By Peter Gordon, vice president, Commercial Payment Solutions, Asia/Pacific MasterCard International**

TODAY'S competitive environment means that corporations must always remain agile and mobile. Travel and entertainment expenditures are necessary for sales, management needs, and many other areas of operation. On average, T&E is the third highest business expense category. The ability to effectively manage them can have a positive impact on bottom line. The implementation of the right program could potentially result in savings of up to 50 percent per year for the corporation

For greater efficiency, corporations need to contain and monitor expenses in flexible manner, yet have complete command over spending data. The corporation needs a corporate payment card program that is - from beginning to end - customized to meet the company's financial requirements and takes care of employees on the move.

## Tools to gain a competitive edge

With the proliferation of corporate payment cards, the corporation may find it difficult to find a program that is congruent to its need for flexibility and control. Important factors to look for in the selection process include:

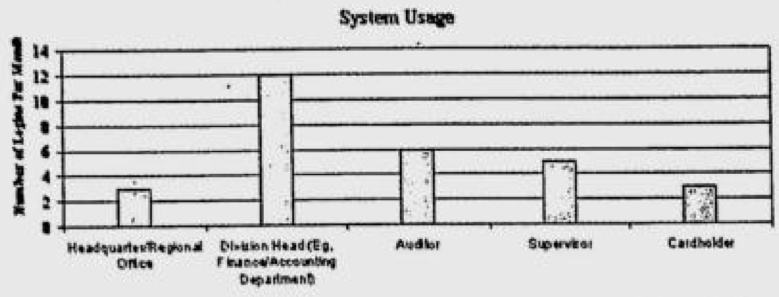
## Manageability

The payment card should also provide tools that help control expenses and make better-informed financial decisions.

Finance managers should be able to customize the program to set spending limits, authorization, and other criteria that will help travelling personnel get their work done. The service provider should also provide the company with access to a repository of data of the company's spending. Value-added features should include the capability to break down the information to show spending patterns, types of establishments, frequency, business unit and more.

With this data management capability, the organization will benefit from an enhanced ability to identify cost-saving, enforced travel policies, negotiate with vendors, and streamline expense reporting.

The program should also accommodate the demands of the global nature of business that requires the flexibility to handle the demands of multiple offices worldwide. Global and regional reporting is fast becoming standard requirement for larger organizations.



**THE ABOVE chart indicates the average number of logins by various level of personnel within a corporation.**

## Compatibility

Transaction information must be easily customized for use within the company's expense or e-expense reporting management systems.

Rich data and interoperability with your company's expense management and financial management / accounting systems will provide an essential source of decision-making information. Data is actionable for both reconciliation and strategic purposes.

## Top 5 Reports

- Account Statement
- Expense Report
- Cost Allocation Summary
- Spending Analysis Detail
- Card Program Analysis

## Customization

The program should provide user-friendly features for the implementation of multiple security and control features.

This is to ensure that individual corporate cards are used for purposes that are consistent with the company's travel policy. Corporations should also be able to choose to have individual billings sent to each cardholder, or channeled to a central billing system that provides the finance department with a single consolidated statement for back-end reconciliation. The latter is seen as best practice.

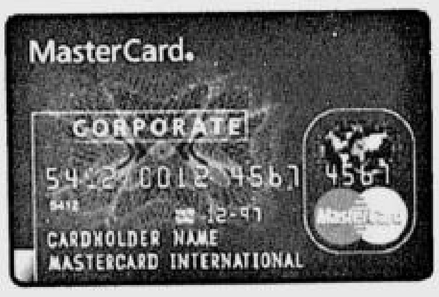
## Convenience

The payment card program should meet the needs of the employee no matter where he/she does business - in the office, on the road, or online.

The program should ensure that all transactions are within a highly secured environment in a wide range of scenarios. Online reporting should be provided to enable employees to report expense while on the road.

Corporations who are considering a T&E or corporate payment card program should review the organization's requirements. The solution chosen must deliver for all employees - whether they are managing expense reporting systems or entertaining clients. As such, the payment card solution provider should be prepared to customize programs so that it links perfectly to the company's corporate travel policies, MIS requirements, and other characteristics of the operations.

The program chosen for T&E expenses today must be expandable to meet a broader range of needs in the future. Versatility and flexibility to meet future needs are essential to any company in a changing, highly competitive world.



The program chosen for T&E expenses today must be expandable to meet a broader range of needs in the future. Versatility and flexibility to meet future needs are essential to any company in a changing, highly competitive world.

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# New MasterCard credit cards liven up your lifestyle

The credit card industry is more vibrant and robust than ever, characterized this year by a roster of niche card products tailored to the needs of different markets.

Cultivating a close relationship with its member financial institutions, MasterCard International alone has helped launch no less than seven credit cards within the first seven months, reinforcing its position as a leading international card payment brand in the Philippines.

The emergence of market-customized payment cards affirm the growing consumer demand for products that cater to their specific lifestyles. As attested by Jose Rene Villa-Real, country manager, Philippines, MasterCard International: "More cardholders are going for credit cards that have features and benefits relevant to their needs. We at MasterCard are pleased to have initiated with our member banks the move towards this direction, resulting in greater customer appreciation, market growth, and profitability."

With the most number of card programs in the country, MasterCard, through its collaboration with member banks, now taps strongly into various market segments composed of the youth, international travelers, and even health and fitness enthusiasts. The new card programs launched this year are summed up as follows:

### Young and innovative

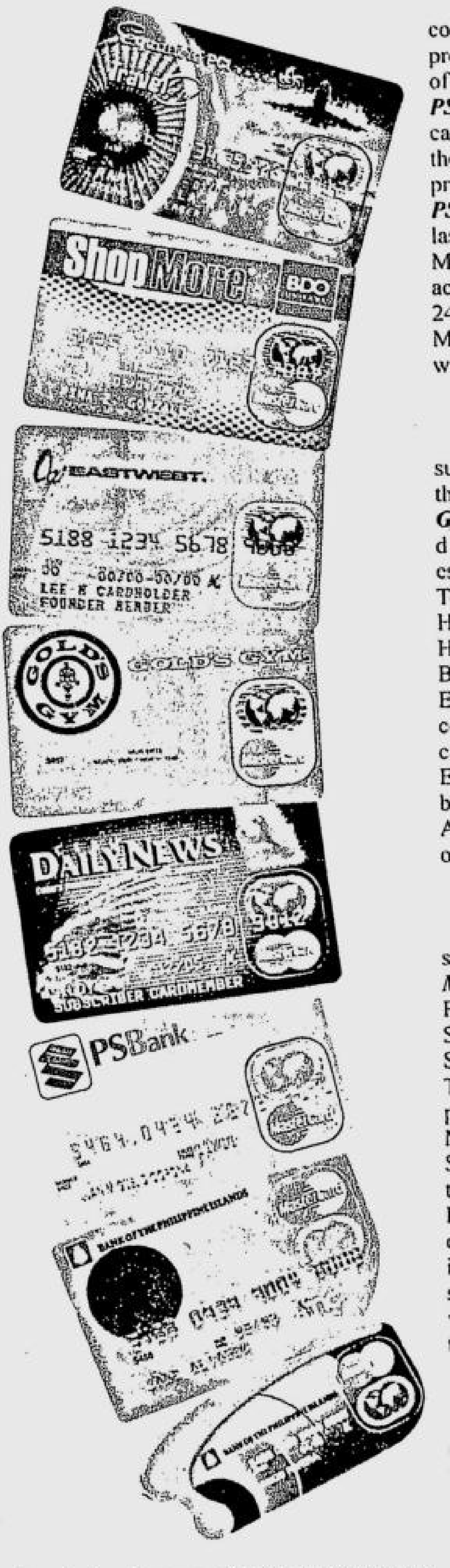
The first rounded-edge designed credit card launched by BPI late last year has replicated itself into a smaller, and even more unconventional form this year the ***BPI Mini-Edge MasterCard***. Small enough to fit on a key ring, it comes with a detachable plastic case that you can easily flip back to reveal the card's magnetic stripe, ready for swiping at a payment counter. It continues to be a hot item among the youth who gravitate towards the unusual, the fashionable, and the trendy, and it demonstrates MasterCard's leadership in innovation and design, in accord with the changing lifestyle needs of its cardholders.

### On the go

Frequent travelers, meanwhile, can enjoy special benefits with the ***Equitable Travel Card MasterCard***. This card comes with two separate credit limits, in Peso and in US Dollar, giving you greater purchasing power and the convenience of paying in either of these denominations. Plus, unlike other travel cards that are limited to a single airline, the Equitable Travel Card MasterCard gives mileage points in whatever mode of transportation you choose by land, sea or air. Other benefits include: Automatic insurance coverage while traveling, a low P40 minimum purchase requirement to earn 1 Travel e-point, lower interest charges, two-year waiver of annual fees for new cardholder, and travel-related rewards items, among others.

### Provincial sortie

Recognizing the increasing market prominence and progressiveness of Cebu, MasterCard gave its support to the first co-branded card program for Security Bank and for the Philippine newspaper industry, the ***Cebu Daily News Security Bank MasterCard*** credit card. Launched last February, this is the first credit card to cater to the lifestyle of Cebuanos, giving them discounts and freebies from various shopping, dining, and hotel and resort establishments in Cebu. Being a MasterCard card, Cebuanos can enjoy the convenience and spending power of this new card anywhere they may be.



### Three-for-one

With PSBank, the country's second largest thrift bank, MasterCard was able to collaborate for not just one but three card programs. The first involves the introduction of PSBank's first credit card product, the ***PSBank Classic and Gold MasterCard*** cards. The second collaboration resulted in the launch of two international debit card programs: the ***PSBank ATM Card*** and the ***PSBank Flexi Credit Line Money Card***. The last two cards have been enhanced with the Maestro/Cirrus brands, giving cardholders access to deposit accounts and credit lines 24/7 at any of the more than 935,000 MasterCard/Maestro/Cirrus ATMs worldwide.

### Fit and healthy

MasterCard also flexed its muscle last summer to give health and fitness enthusiasts their own unique card the ***Equitable Gold's Gym MasterCard***. Cardholders can get discounts in sports shops, health establishments, and other outlets such as Toby's Sports, GNC, Gold's Gym Body Shop, Health Express, the Suriya Spa, Mossimo, Hard Rock café, V Bar, Temple Bar, The Basement Salon, and Cebu Pacific. The Equitable Gold's Gym MasterCard also comes with a dual billing feature that bills cardholders either in Pesos or US Dollars, the E-Pay Installment Plan to help them pay for big-ticket items easily, the Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Program, and many other features.

### Shopping supreme

The card that rewards shoppers with more shopping is none other than the ***BDO Shop More MasterCard***. It gives four times more Rewards points when used at SM Department Store, and six times more points when used at SM Supermarket and SM Appliance Center. This is in addition to the regular Rewards points cardholders earn when shopping at any MasterCard-accredited establishment. BDO Shop More MasterCard cardholders also get to choose from any item sold at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and 18 other retail affiliates for their Rewards. With its generous Rewards points, you'll be able to shop and shop some more indeed and that's a valuable thing in these economically trying times.

### Budget conscious

Finally, young professionals concerned about stretching their budget can go for the new ***East West Bank MasterCard*** credit card. When used for basic commodities such as gas, groceries, and medicines, the card applies only a 2.25% interest rate, while for non-basic purchases such as clothing, jewelry, travel, and the like, it applies a 2.75% interest rate. The East West Bank MasterCard also offers the longest interest-free payment period of 54 days, allowing its cardholders almost two months to extend payment for their purchases without interest. It's truly a card that enhances purchasing power and encourages you to use it for basic necessities, another product fit for today's economy and lifestyle.

Now with more than 50 card programs running in the country, MasterCard reinforces its stance with this year's new line-up as the most preferred card payment partner of its member financial institutions.

## Free coffeemaker with Citibank Gold

ENJOY a bright and perky day with a personal coffeemaker free from Citibank for an approved Gold credit card application from now until Sept. 30. Aside from this amazing offer, new Citibank Gold cardholders also enjoy waived first year fees as well as a wealth of exciting perks and benefits, foremost of which is automatic membership to Citibank World Privileges, a global benefit program that lets Citibank Gold Cardholders see more of the world in utmost style and convenience. Available in more than 16,000 establishments in over 60 countries, Citibank World Privileges emphasizes recognition, priority service and preferential treatment like hotel upgrades, priority access to executive lounges, VIP treatment at the finest restaurants and discounts at dining, shopping and entertainment outlets. Call 423-3000 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

## BANKARD-JPT TIE UP FOR GLOBE AUTOLOAD VIA CREDIT CARDS

**Bankard and Jade Pacific Telecom (JPT) recently signed an agreement to provide Globe prepaid cell phone users the facility to load their phones anytime, anywhere via text and charge their load to their Visa, JCB or MasterCard credit cards. Signing the agreement are Bankard president and CEO Joven D. Reyes (2nd from right) and JPT president and CEO Carlos S. Nocon (2nd from left). Witnessing the event are JPT vice president Carlos V. Nocon Jr and Bankard assistant vice president Louie E. Garcia.**

# MTV Credit Card now in RP

MTV Networks Asia and Equitable CardNetwork Inc, two of today's most prestigious and highly respected companies, join hands to launch the most wanted card in town, the MTV Credit Card: They were the same team that introduced the MTV Debit Card to the Philippine market last year.

Shown during the contract sign were, from left, Jack Madrid, MTV Philippines general manager, Christopher James, MTV Networks Asia's vice president for network development, licensing and merchandising, Eugenio Hernando, Equitable Card's senior executive vice president, and Nelia Carlos, Equitable Card's senior vice president.

Honored in all Visa-accredited establishments worldwide, this co-branded credit card between MTV and Equitable Card is designed to address the lifestyle and interests of the MTV generation. Aside from the convenience of Visa's network-ready credit facility, it also offers great perks and privileges such as discounts, freebies, exclusive invites to the hippest events and most happening places locally and in some countries in the region. It is one's ticket to the exciting world of clubbing, craving, fashion, entertainment, health and beauty, pampering and indulgence, gadgets and gizmos, trips and getaways courtesy of hundreds of merchants.

To apply for an MTV Credit Card, visit any Equitable PCIBank branches and check out the MTV Credit Card Mall Tours this September and October.

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# Credit card holders can be wiser

MANY people have been saved from potentially embarrassing moments by their credit cards. Not a few housewives have reached the grocery counter with so many items to pay only to find out there's not enough cash in their wallets. Some yuppies may have tried to impress their barkada on a night out but ended up short on cash.

Situations like these demonstrate consumers' dependence on credit cards. Lately, however, an increasing number of cardholders are finding it hard to settle their monthly dues. Suddenly, they're realizing they don't have enough left to settle their dues and can hardly raise funds to pay for the minimum amount due on their monthly credit card bills.

Why? The answer is plain and simple. Their old reliable credit card has started charging higher interest rates. Out of blind loyalty, the cardholders have stopped looking at how much the higher interest rates have become a burden.

It's about time to take the blinkers off. Heed the Bankard credo-don't work for your credit card, let your credit card work for you.

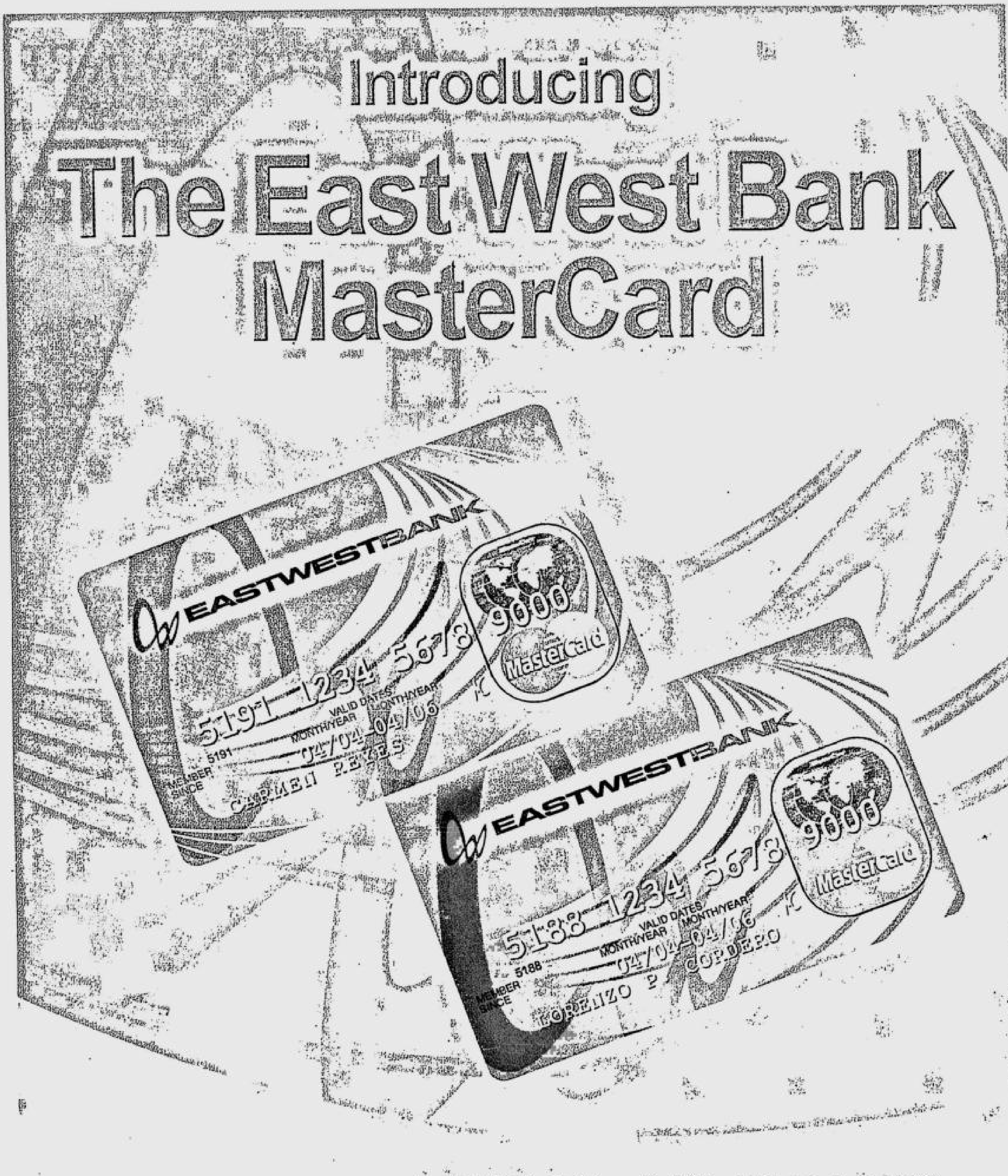
Decide now to make that most important switch. Go with the card that's sensitive to cardholders needs, and aims to serve, not be a burden. Grab a myDream JCB card.

Only a year in the market, myDream JCB has changed many a cardholders' perception of what a credit card is and should be. With its low annual fee of P800 and low monthly effective revolving interest rate of 2.5 percent, it is not just a credit card to use during emergency situations, myDream JCB has become a tool for effective management of funds. Imagine the savings you get when you own a myDream JCB as against any of the leading credit card brands.

To get a better understanding, look over myDream JCB's value-added and cost-friendly features:

- Low annual fee. At P800, it's the lowest in the market for an international card.
- Low effective monthly interest rate of 2.5 percent for revolving amounts as against the 3.25 to 3.5 percent monthly interest charged by other credit card brands.
- Accepted for PEP Installment at effective monthly interest rates as low as 1.5 percent per month for a three-month term, 1.75 percent per month for a six-month term, and 2 percent per month for a 12-month term. Note that myDream JCB only quotes "effective" or real interest rates and not the usual "nominal" or add-on rates charged by other brands. Details on this are available from the myDream JCB customer hotline at 888-1818.
- Convenient balance conversion feature allows cardholders to convert all or a part of their outstanding balance or retail purchases to installment any time just by calling the myDream JCB customer hotline.
- Balance transfer facility allows cardholders to transfer balance from their non-Bankard cards to their myDream JCB to enjoy immediate savings.
- 0-percent interest installment deals in three, six or 12-month terms at select merchant establishments for purchase of appliances, furniture and other big-ticket items.
- Online payment facility and statement viewing via its website www.Bankard.com.
- International and local recognition and acceptability.

> Decide now to make that most important switch. Go with the card that's sensitive to cardholders needs, and aims to serve, not be a burden. Grab a myDream JCB card.



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- The **LOWEST** monthly revolving interest of only 2.25% for basic purchases.
- The **LIGHTEST** monthly payments of only 3.5% of your total balance.
- The **LONGEST** monthly payment period of up to 54 days.

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## *The East West Bank advantage at 10*

THE SIGNS of good things surround East West Bank on the celebration of its 10th anniversary. East West Bank's first decade is marked by growth and stability, manifested by its growing number of customers enjoying a wide array of innovative products and services that redefine the way banking should be.

The strongest sign that the Bank is moving forward is its steady growth. The Bank has registered over P20 billion in resources, with traditional deposits growing to P14.5 billion. Its total loan portfolio swelled to P11.2 billion for the second quarter of 2004.

East West Bank's sign of commitment to clients is clearly seen by its continuous network expansion. To date, the Bank has 62 personal banking centers (PBCs) and 70 ATMs, all placed in strategic locations nationwide. In the next five years, the Bank is expected to bring its branch network to 100.

The signs of convenience are also with the NetAccess online banking facility through the bank's website www.eastwestbanker.com. Individuals and corporate customers alike conveniently use NetAccess to do funds transfer, balance inquiry, and bills payment. This facility is also the platform for the Bank's superior cash management services, the Corporate Suite. Through Corporate Suite and NetAccess, clients can now do payroll and data uploads, track collections and disbursements-online, real time. Recently, the Bank introduced the e-Disbursement facility that totally does away with cumbersome check preparation and offers the unique SMS and e-mail notification alerts for payees upon successful crediting of payments.

There is also the portal www.mylife.ph where a customer may discover fresh relationships with other customers of the bank as well as enjoy business opportunities while doing bank transactions. For customer inquiries and feedback, the exclusive 8-ACCESS (822-2377) hotline is available for bank inquiries and service requests. Another facility that allows for greater convenience is the Bank's mobile banking facility, the MobileAccess, where the customer may transact with the bank using a cellular phone.

Another innovation is the EZ Check Signature Verification System wherein specimen signatures of clients can be retrieved anytime at the branch level for easy online verification of clients transacting with the Bank. The system has been piloted in selected Metro Manila and Luzon PBCs and is expected to be available at all PBCs by next year.

A sign of concern for the customers' future is evident through high-yielding accounts like the 5-year SecuredFuture Fund and the Savings Maximizer. Then, there is Infinity Banking, which gives high net worth clients kingly perks such as exclusive use of Infinity banking centers for meetings, exclusive deals and Concierge services, among others.

Recently, the bank introduced the East West Bank MasterCard, which redefines the power of credit with its lowest interest charges, lightest monthly payments and longest interest-free credit period, among other attractive features.

East West Bank has also ensured that the cost of doing business remains affordable for its customers. To date, inter-branch transactions are free of charge and service fees are lower compared to other banks. ATM transactions are free of charge for EWB ATM Access cardholders using the EWB network. In addition, the Bank's initial deposit and balance requirements are among the lowest in the industry.

All these products and services are designed to allow clients to discover and experience the good things, while they find more strengthened relationships with East West Bank to make their lives complete.

As East West Bank president Elrey T. Ramos said, "Our growth for the past 10 years has been remarkable. But that's no reason to stay put. The best ones, they say, just keep on pushing until there are no more roads. And when there's no more path to conquer, we'll create new ones."

# Shopping Supplement

1ST SHOPPING MALL

## Despite economic woes, Bangladesh hungers for malling

DHAKA--Bangladesh's first shopping and entertainment mall opens in the capital Dhaka next month as new figures show a huge increase in imports fueled by demand from the emerging middle-class in one of the world's poorest countries.

The 21-floor Bashundhara City mall took six years to build and will feature an iceskating rink, multiplex cinema, gym, foodcourt and indoor theme park.

It is eventually expected to have more than 1,000 shops on over 1.6 million sqm of floor space.

The center has caused excitement among affluent Dhakaites and a younger generation hungry for Western-style leisure.

"Imported cosmetics and shoes are higher quality than non-imported ones so I'm very much looking forward to buying these things there with my friends and family; we are all excited by this," said Fancy Rahman, 33, a full-time mother whose husband is an advertising executive.

"It will be very successful too with the young people who all want to move with the times and get the Western style. Bangladesh doesn't have anything like this but it is starting to catch up now with the rest of the world," she added.

Executive director of the center Mohammed Ahsanullah said the complex, which opens Oct. 3, would be a new experience for the city of 12 million people.

"The facilities for leisure and entertainment in the city are really insufficient at the moment and this center will be the first to try to fill that gap," he said.

Nearly half of the Bangladeshi population lives on less than a dollar a day.

But like neighboring India, Bangladesh has a growing and increasingly Westernized middle class with money to spend on new consumer products and services.

In the year to June 30, Bangladesh imported luxury and other goods worth more than 15 billion taka ($260 million), an increase of 32.3 percent from the previous year, according to commerce ministry figures. Gross domestic product grew by 5.5 percent, continuing an upward trend.

The middle class's newfound affluence is visible all over Dhaka. A building boom has seen gleaming new high-rises springing up each week while scores of expensive new restaurants serving foreign cuisine have opened in the upmarket suburbs.

A $65-million theme park which opened two years ago attracts hundreds of visitors each week.

The country's economic base has been undergoing rapid structural change. Agriculture remains the main employer but its contribution to GDP has shrunk from 50 percent in 1972-73 to 20 percent in 1999-2000, according to the central bank.

The success of the garments export sector has led the way in boosting industrial production growth to an average six percent a year.

"The richest 10 percent is controlling 41 percent of the country's income," said economist Devapriya Bhattacharya of Bangladesh's Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"The very rich have always shopped abroad but the lower end of the rich section of society, which is growing, is getting rich from various things like remittances from relatives working abroad and from entrepreneurial activities.

"They have a huge spending power and are behind the demand for imported goods," he added.

The consumer goods of the Bashundhara complex will remain far out of reach for the majority of Dhaka's 12 million inhabitants but many welcome it as a sign of economic growth.

"The shops there will be very expensive so people like me will never be able to go there," said Ratan Mia, a street hawker earning about 260 taka ($4) a day.

"But these things are good for our country because they mean progress, which is good for people like me too." *AFP*

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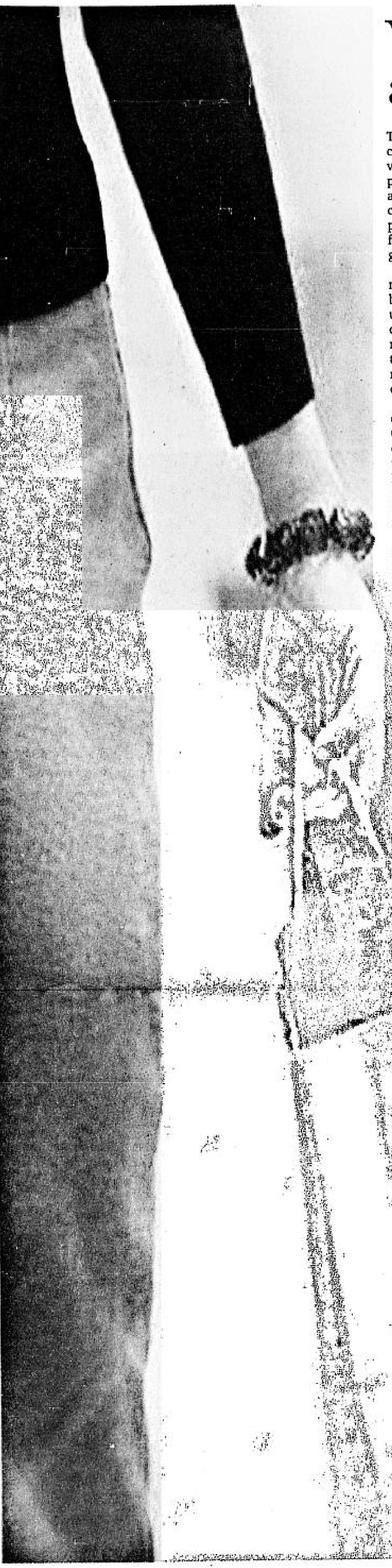
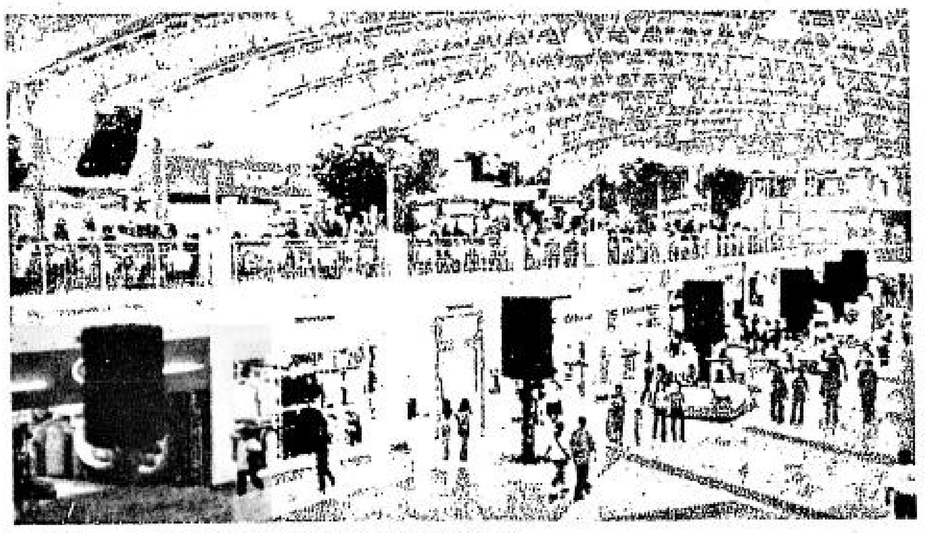


# Value shopping in style at the new Edsa Central



THE 23-year-old landmark was recently refurbished.

THE MAJOR improvement on the bustling corner of Shaw Boulevard and Edsa has revived interest in the once chaotic location peppered with sidewalk vendors, pedestrians, loiterers, and unruly traffic. Today, it is characterized by an organized traffic and pedestrian system, clean surroundings, and a focused direction complementing the Ortigas business district.

Edsa Central, a 23-year-old urban landmark, was recently refurbished to once again become one of Metro Manila's preferred value shopping destinations. Greenfield Development Corp, a leading property development and management company, undertook the revival of what was once the only commercial and entertainment hangout in Mandaluyong.

Standing on a 25-hectare commercial complex in Greenfield District, the new Edsa Central Mall was built using state-of-the-art engineering and architecture to suit the times and the changing needs of its clientele. It features the Edsa Central Pavilion, characterized by a high, curved ceiling and reinforced frosted glass windows that create a modern look for its customers.

Shops like Watson's and My Dollar Store offer high quality items at affordable prices. Trendy, high-quality merchandise are also offered at Bench, Nike, Otto Shoes, Lee USA, Dickies USA, Blues Brothers, Wrangler, Leaveland, and IFU. For shoppers on the lookout for great bargains, they can visit the new Edsa Central Square located across the mall. The latter contains branches of Let's Face It, Bangkok Foot Spa or Beverly Hills Salon, for spa services and skin pampering. For home décor and appliance needs, there's Automatic Center, Home City, and Workstation.

The 3,000-sqm Food Central on the second level of the Edsa Central Pavilion, meanwhile, has delicious, affordable meals for customers. Promenaders can also check out the al fresco dining setup in the balcony, which overlooks the entire Edsa Central Complex. The area contains popular fastfood outlets like Jollibee, KFC, Chowking, Max's, Burger King, Greenwich, Goto King, and Pizza Hut. Food lovers can likewise enjoy new and sumptuous offers from Indulgence, Bin Khamis Kebab House, Nacho King, and French Baker.

For fresh produce, meat, and seafood, homemakers and other clients can buy quality ingredients at the Edsa Central Marketplace-the only traditional wet market in a commercial and business district.

For many years now, Edsa Central has served as a convergence point for thousands of commuters. Before boarding the bus, FX, jeepney, or taxi, travelers can buy pasalubong for the family and choose from a number of food and merchandise stalls that line the renovated Edsa Central Hub. Moreover, the place is where direct-selling and networking offices are located to help enterprising family members earn extra income. Because the mall has a direct link to the MRT Station, shoppers on-the-go can have fast, convenient service when they buy items or grab a meal at Mini Stop, Hen Lin, etc., at the Edsa Central Station, or they can try Ricky Reyes Salon for a great hairstyling and makeover.

Even as Edsa Central embraces major change by introducing new amenities, new tenants, and offering new merchandise, it does so without discarding its good old value shopping legacy or alienating old, loyal patrons.

# Philips joins BPI Installment Madness at Glorietta 4

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics, Europe's number one consumer electronics company, currently showcases its wide range of the latest audio-video products at the 33rd BPI Installment Madness at Glorietta 4.

Use your BPI Credit Cards to avail yourselves of Philips products such as Pixel Plasma TVs, HDTVs, LCDs, Home Theater System and mini-components at zero-percent interest on 3, 6 or 12 months installment terms.

What's more, a minimum purchase of P5,000 entitles you to participate in the ongoing Philips Best of Europe 2 promo. By simply texting promo and personal details (2366 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers and 269 for Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers), participants can get a chance to win a brand new BMW 316i; Pixel Plasma TVs; a round-trip ticket for two to European cities Amsterdam, Paris, and London; gift checks from European fashion houses Salvatore Ferragamo and Prada worth P50,000 each and other Philips products.

When you buy any of the selected Philips audio-video appliances on the exhibit, you will get a chance to join the exciting Windmill Promo by spinning the roulette and take home instant prizes like a Philips bag, microphone, DVD software, Philips jacket or the Philips Digital Camera Key003. Lucky customers will also receive freebies like Philips Sporty bags, limited-edition jackets, DVD software and key rings upon purchase of selected items on the exhibit. The exhibit runs this September only.

# P&G, Abenson partners this rainy season

THIS rainy season, washing machine shoppers can look forward to the best laundry offers only from Abenson. The appliance retail giant has recently partnered with leading manufacturing multinational company Procter & Gamble to give shoppers complete solutions for the home.

"We want people who shop at Abenson to feel that they get good quality service and high value for their money. We want them to shop from us and fully appreciate the product that they bought. This is why we partnered with P&G. We feel customers benefit from seeing actual product demonstrations, sample products that complement the appliance we sell", says Marilette Suarez, Abenson marketing manager.

With the objective of giving customers total laundry solution, Abenson has a three-tier washing machine promo. First, customers get 800g of Ariel Ultramatic free for every purchase of any washing machine model. Second, customers can get a flat iron for only P8 when they buy qualified washing machine models. Third, customers can claim a free laundry hamper from selected Abenson stores when they buy two packs of Ariel Ultramatic 800g from a Waltermart Supermarket.

"Overall, customers enjoy big value savings. Summing up the three promos, customers enjoy over P500 added value to their purchase. Couple this with the wide assortment of trusted brands we showcase in the store, customers get winning product offers;" Marilette further explains.

For P&G, this promo allows new washing machine owners to try the new Ariel Ultramatic. "It is a product we are confident new washing machine owners will love. Ariel Ultramatic is specially designed to work in washing machines", says Aisa Yap, P&G brand PR manager. Furthermore, tying up with Abenson makes sense for P&G as both companies share the same thrust. As Abenson aims to give customers value for money, P&G aims to help customers save money. "Ariel's unique formulation has the extra power of hand scrub in addition to the power of bar and bleach that cleans tough stains in the washing machine. The result is a clean that is better than that you would have gotten if you used powder and bar combined," adds Yap.

Expect product demonstrations in selected Abenson stores, for customers to see for themselves the cleaning power of Ariel Ultramatic using Abenson's washing machines.

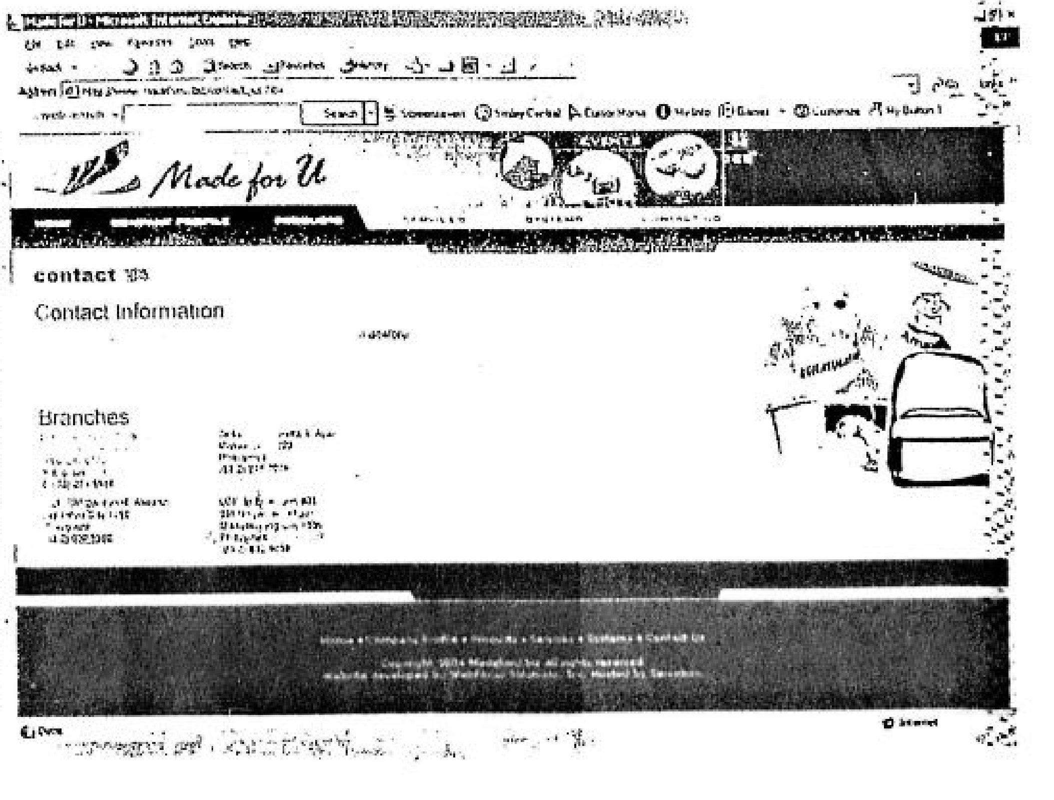
# Online shopping catalog: The quickest link to customized gifts

A NEW trend in retailing has made corporate or personalized gift-hunting a breeze-online gift selection. Leading the way with innovations in custom-made corporate gifts and services is Made for U, the country's largest customizer. Recently, it introduced its website on the Internet. Colorful and user-friendly, www.madeforu.biz features quick links to gifts that motivate, recognize, appreciate or inspire. It comes with browse categories for a wide range of quality merchandise, ranging from promotional products, executive gifts, awards, decorative items, desktop paraphernalia, dinnerware, mugs and glassware, apparel, linen, caps and sports wear, to other items that may be personalized.

Under the products category, website visitors will find item codes, description and retail prices. Huge discounts are in store for individuals who place volume orders. Made for U offers something to suit every taste, requirement and budget. The company's edge also lies in its use of updated technology, ensuring that it meets the most demanding and intricate customer orders. It is also very conscious about quality and on-time production of goods.

Made for U's online gallery of gifts and personalized items are but a small fraction of what it is capable of delivering to customers. To avail yourself of Made for U's embroidery, etching, engraving, stamping, printing, weaving, and other related services, the quality-oriented one-stop specialty store has branches at the lower ground floor of SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City, upper ground floor, SM Southmall, Almanza, Las Pinas City; level 2, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati; and level 2, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City. Shops will soon have e-stations where customers may easily browse catalogues using touch screen monitors.

For inquiries and details about superior quality corporate gifts and items, fill up the online inquiry form available at www.madeforu.biz, or e-mail info@madeforu.biz.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# The P99 Store inducted as new Affi member

LEAVE it to value-conscious Filipino shoppers to recognize a real bargain when they see one. Fortunately for scores of bargain hunters in key provincial cities, The P99 Store (which pioneered the one-price-shopping in the Philippines) has made its way in these far-off locales, bringing a wide array of unique finds and fashion steals once only offered by the retail giants.

At The P99 Store, buyers find a jungle of clothes like basic tees or tanks and odds and ends-each item or a special combo set offered at a surprisingly low price of P99. Every month, new items arrive and you may never see the same thing twice or find your size in something that you like.

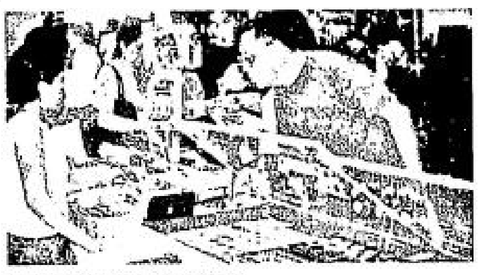
To date, The P99 Store has built a chain of 25 outlets on a P99 price tag. Recently, the company was inducted as member of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc (Affi), which aims to help existing businesses expand not only in rapid but responsible fashion. Affi has helped many an aspiring entrepreneur in setting up his own branch of a popular and successful homegrown enterprise. The organization has evolved into a venue where all interested entrepreneurs, franchisers as well as non-franchisers can network with colleagues to share best practices and trade trends for their mutual advancement.

At the induction ceremony held by Affi at Palm Village in Makati, The P99 Store's Eric Teng shared that his business started out as a hobby. The idea came to him and his wife when they came across a $1 Store while on vacation in the United States in 1993. The P99 Store's merchandise presently ranges from clothes to accessories, houseware, toys and novelty items. The first store opened in Tutuban, and expansion soon began a few years later. In time, the store became part of almost every Robinsons, Ayala and Ever shopping mall. The P99 Store began venturing into franchising in 2001. Among the existing franchise stores The P99 Store in Plaza Maestro, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, and Bonifacio Street, Tuguegarao.

Association of Filipino ...isers, Inc.
AFFI
INDU

**SHOWN** are, from left, Affi president Tess Ngan Tian congratulating The P99 Store marketing director Eric Teng, with The P99 Store franchising officer Norie Lee, and Affi special projects director Jorge Wieneke III.

**RED PLAID SALE**
Assumption Alumnae Association (high school class 1975 and college class 1979), together with the Assumption Family Council, will hold the 'Red Plaid Sale' at the Hotel Intercontinental in Ayala Avenue, Makati on Oct. 3. There will be over a hundred concessionaires on both dates offering a variety of merchandise. The bazaar aims to raise funds for the Assumption mission schools Assumpta Tech in Pampanga, San Juan Nepomuceno in Pasay City, St. Martin in Baguio, Barrio Obrero in Iloilo, Sibalom in Antique, Kibanggay in Bukidnon, and Kauswagan in Lanao del Norte. Also a beneficiary of this sale is the Faculty Development Project of the Family Council. The project aims to upgrade faculty skills by providing teachers and administrators the opportunity to participate in various programs, seminars and conferences here and abroad. Raffle prizes await shoppers all day. For inquiries, call Everly Aquino at 894-3561 or 894-3580. Major sponsors include ABS-CBN, the Lifestyle Channel and Selecta Ice Cream.



**ANTIQUES SHOW**
Artifacts like religious icons, porcelains, pottery and stoneware, numismatic items and many more are attracting shoppers at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. Bargain hunters from Metro Manila and provinces also crowd Greenhills because of other high quality products sold at low prices. A welcome event for antique collectors is the 11th National Arts & Antiques Show ongoing until Oct. 7. The 24-day show is a project of Prime Asia Trade Planners & Convention Organizers (Patepco) with the full support, cooperation and participation of Bayanihan Collectors Club Inc, Philippine Numismatic & Antiquarian Society, Bank Notes Collectors Association of the Philippines, and Guild of Antique Dealers of the Philippines (Greenhills-Philtrade-Mabine cluster).

# Take what fits you right with Nestea Lite

NESTEA Lite, the country's first lite iced tea, and Penshoppe gives shoppers a chance to win exciting prizes and premium items with the Nestea Lite-Penshoppe Take What Fits You Right promo.

From Sept. 1 to 30, two lucky shoppers will get a chance to go on a P25,000 shopping spree at Penshoppe. Shoppers can join the promo by purchasing Nestea Lite packs (80 grams, single serve box or 400 grams) at participating groceries and supermarkets, which then entitles them to a coupon, which serves as their ticket to the raffle promo. The raffle draw will be held at the Nestle office, 31 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati on Oct. 22.

The coupon also entitles participants to join the What Fits game at the Nestea Lite promo booth to win premium items and discounts from Nestea Lite and Penshoppe. Participants will be asked to draw two cards with Penshoppe-inspired clothing items from the box. To win, the illustration on the two cards should match.

The promo also extends to Penshoppe boutiques nationwide. Every P800 purchase of Penshoppe products entitles shoppers to two 80-gram packs of Nestea Lite.

# Waltermart Makati: 5-story community center opens this December

AFTER 11 years of successful supermarket operations in Pasong Tamo corner Pasay Road, the new Waltermart Makati, a five-story integrated community shopping center, will open its doors to the public by December 2004.

Each floor will feature a complementary mix of tenants to service the diverse needs of the Makati residential and commercial community. The first floor will have Jollibee, Chowking, Starbucks, Mercury Drugstore and Watson's Personal Care Store. The second floor will be bannered by Waltermart Supermarket. The third floor will boast of a variety of the latest men's and women's fashion spearheaded by Robinsons Department Store and Bench. The fourth floor will feature Abenson Appliances, Robinsons Handyman Do-it-Best-Hardware, Homeplus Furniture, and Electroworld Computer Store. The fifth floor will showcase four all-digital, state-of-the-art cinemas.

Waltermart Makati is currently in the process of completing its roster of complementary tenants in time for their December opening. For leasing inquiries, call 638-3395 or 638-2591.

Established in 1992, Waltermart has over 13 supermarket branches and eight shopping centers in Metro Manila, North Luzon, and South Luzon. Waltermart is committed to providing a convenient shopping destination and active participation in the social development efforts designed to uplift the quality of life of the local community it serves.

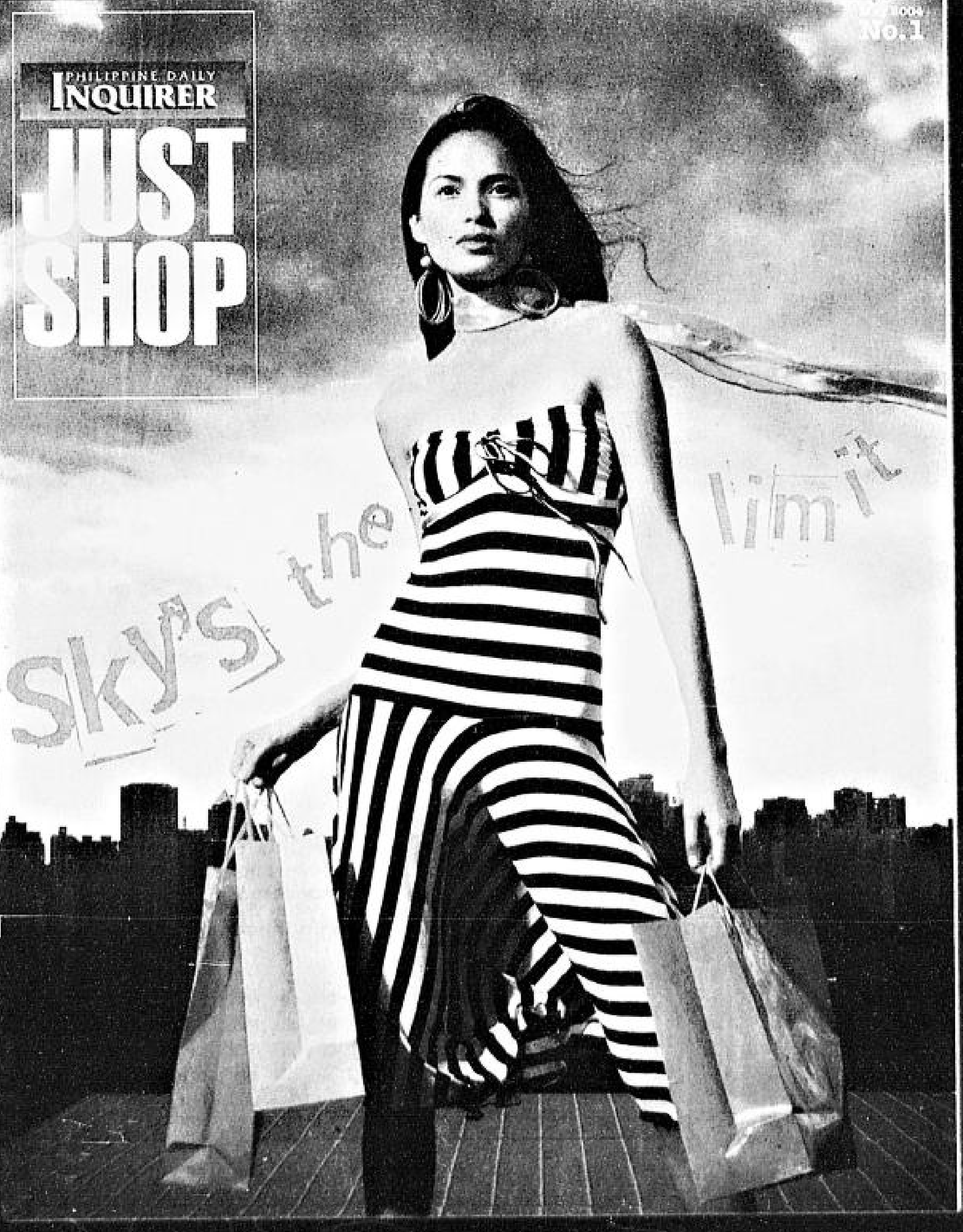
# Araneta Center stages centerwide sale

ARANETA Center, one of the premier shopping, dining and entertainment destinations at the heart of Quezon City, will hold a three-day centerwide sale from Oct. 1 to 3 offering the public up to 50 percent off the original price.

According to Araneta Center Inc (ACI) vice president for marketing Bing Tecson, great discounts are in store for Araneta Center visitors. "We are inviting shoppers to take advantage of the rock-bottom prices."

Participating malls include Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza, Farmers Market, Value Station, Coliseum Circle, SM Cubao and Shopwise Arcade.

Araneta Center has also expanded its shopping hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to give customers more time to make their purchases. "Instead of rushing their shopping to beat closing time, customers can buy at leisure and choose wisely, knowing that they will have more time to spend," said Tecson.



inquirer says JUST SHOP!

Every last Friday of the month, let Inquirer do your personal shopping. Just browse through the pages of JUST SHOP — the country's first pull-out glossy magazine supplement dedicated to the Filipinos' favorite pastime -- SHOPPING!

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Discover the best bargains, hunt for the right buys and know what stores to raid.

Get styled for school, work and play.

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*Desire is the ultimate necessity.*

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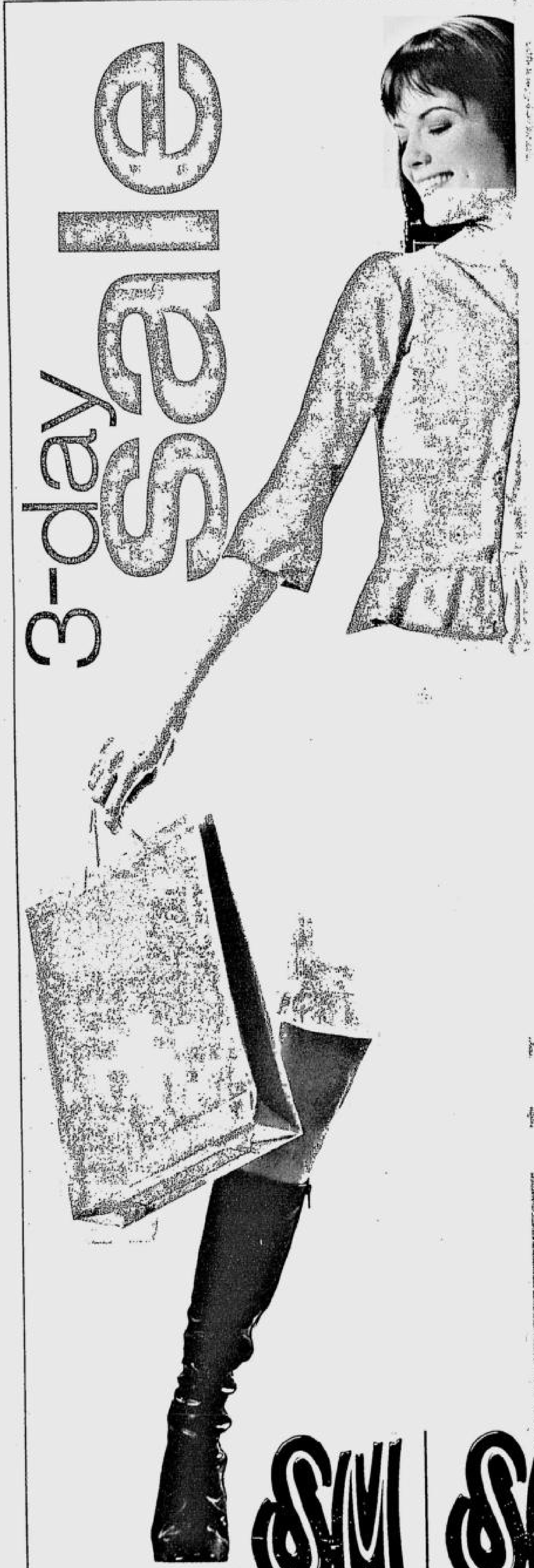
# GREAT OCTOBER SALE
## FROM NORTH TO SOUTH IN 4 SM SUPERMALLS

**Get ready for a value-packed weekend as SM CITY BAGUIO, SM CITY PAMPANGA, SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS and SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO simultaneously hold the much-awaited 3-DAY SALE event on October 1, 2 and 3 !**

As the great month of October signals the countdown to the season of festivities, SM Supermalls ignites the month with a great sale from North to South. Great bargains, special treats and raffle prizes await lucky shoppers during the 3-DAY SALE in the City of Baguio, San Fernando Pampanga, Las Piñas and City of Cagayan de Oro. Shop for the coolest stuff or feast on the latest finds in fashion, shoes, accessories, novelties, gadgets, groceries, home furnishings and more!

-DAY SALE SHOPPING STARTS FROM 10am
10pm . OCTOBER 2 and 2004

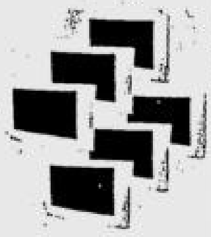


**Oct. 1 Fri**
**2 Sat**
**3 Sun**

0% off
ons mallwide

get a chance to **win** home & kitchen appliances
imarflex
Innovation with a Heart
Valid at SM Southmall Las Piñas only.

get a chance to **win** home appliances
LG Life's Good
Valid at SM City Pampanga only.



SMART Simply Amazing!
Home Interior
Auto Mashers

get a chance to **win** home & kitchen appliances
HANABISHI
Your Satisfaction is our Guarantee
Valid at SM City Cagayan de Oro and SM City Baguio only.

with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or any participating mall establishments.

**mall hours:**
**10am - 10pm**

SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS — Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-491, Series of 2004
SM City PAMPANGA — Per DTI-PGA Permit No. 133, Series of 2004
SM City CAGAYAN de ORO — Per DTI-MOR-X-150, Series
SM City BAGUIO

## great buys in SM CITY BAGUIO

The country's summer capital has now become the favorite shopping destination in the City of Pines. Famed for its unconventional architectural style, SM CITY BAGUIO has definitely changed the lifestyle of both locals and vacationers alike. Cool mountain breeze, breathtaking views and a one-stop shopping bliss to experience!

**Get a chance to WIN HANABISHI Appliances during the 3-DAY SALE!**

**Every P500 single or accumulated purchase (cash or charge) from SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or any participating mall establishments (food and non-food) entitles you to one (1) raffle coupon.**

**PRIZES AT STAKE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| October 1 (Fri) | 50 units | Hanabishi Double Burner Gas Stove |
| | 15 units | Hanabishi Electric Ovens |
| October 2 (Sat) | 50 units | Hanabishi Double Burner Gas Stove |
| | 15 units | Hanabishi Electric Ovens |
| October 3 (Sun) | 50 units | Hanabishi Double Burner Gas Stove |
| | 20 units | Hanabishi Electric Ovens |

## great new offers in SM CITY PAMPANGA

Great discounts, great raffle prizes and great new shops await Pampangueños this weekend!

Bigger SM CITY PAMPANGA now houses more new shops to serve you. Check out our latest additions of fashion and specialty shops, beauty salons and even more of your favorite fastfood outlets! SM Department Store has also expanded for better and wider selections. Food Trippers can indulge at the *Mini Shabu Shabu, Music Factory* and *Northern Brew*-latest Restos at the *Fiesta Strip*.

**Shop during the 3-DAY SALE for a chance to WIN prizes in the daily raffle.**

LG Life's Good

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| October 1 (Fri) | 7 units | LG (21") Electronic Colored TV |
| October 2 (Sat) | 7 units | LG (21") Electronic Colored TV |
| October 3 (Sun) | 7 units | LG (21") Electronic Colored TV |

*Raffle Draw will start at 9:15pm daily at the Entertainment Plaza of SM CITY PAMPANGA.*

SMART Simply Amazing! · SPC Home Interior · Auto Mashers

## great savings at SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS

Last chance to shop for some great bargains over the weekend at the SM SOUTHMALL. Do keep an eye over items at low low prices at the SM Department Store and Supermarket. The list is endless as you shop for discounts on great selections mallwide!

**Plus a chance to WIN imarflex. Home Appliances in the daily raffle!**

**Every P500 single or accumulated purchase at the SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and from any participating mall establishments entitles you to one (1) raffle coupon.**

**PRIZES AT STAKE**

| | |
|---|---|
| 16 units | 3 in 1 Imarflex MICROWAVE/ GRILLER/ TOASTER DIGITAL OVEN |
| 14 units | Imarflex WASHING MACHINE |

*Daily Raffle starts at 10:00pm on October 1, 2, and 3, 2004.*

## GREAT CAGAYAN DE ORO SALE!

Not to miss is the last 3-DAY SALE event of the year happening in SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO. Enjoy great discounts in every corner. **Lucky Shoppers will also get the chance to WIN HANABISHI Home Appliances in the hourly raffle!**

**WIN**

| | |
|---|---|
| 80 units | Hanabishi Stand Fans |
| 80 units | Hanabishi Industrial Fans |
| 50 units | Hanabishi Double Burner Gas Stove |
| 30 units | Hanabishi Electric Ovens |

*Raffle Draw scheduled every 12 noon/ 2pm/ 4pm/ 6pm/ 8pm and 10pm on October 1, 2, and 3, 2004.*

**FREE Pigeon Baby Wipes with a minimum of P100 single receipt purchase- only at the SM FOODCOURT.**